Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism with the second term of the Fitial administration?

1	105
2	27
3	18
4	16
5	38

Sunday, January 17, 2010

INSIDE

Despair and Frenzy

Precious water, food and early glimmers of hope began reaching parched and hungry earthquake survivors Saturday on the streets of this shattered city, where despair at times turned into a frenzy among the ruins.

World...Page 17

Late Night Mess

Conan O'Brien's ratings are soaring as he nears a bitter exit from NBC's "Tonight" show, his ridicule of his network executives apparently resonating in a country filled with the unemployed.

Life & Style...Page 20

Business as usual at governor's office as Fitial 'massage' controversy rages on

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request to have his massage therapist released from jail to give him a massage in the early morning hours of Jan. 8 due to severe back pain continues to receive international media coverage, as some people are trying to mobilize calls for the governor to step down or be recalled, while others ask people not to rush judgment.

It's also business as usual at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill days after the news broke out on the unauthorized release of Qing Mei Cheng from prison to be sent to Fitial's private residence to

See BUSINESS on Page 4

Military buildup hearing receives mixed reaction

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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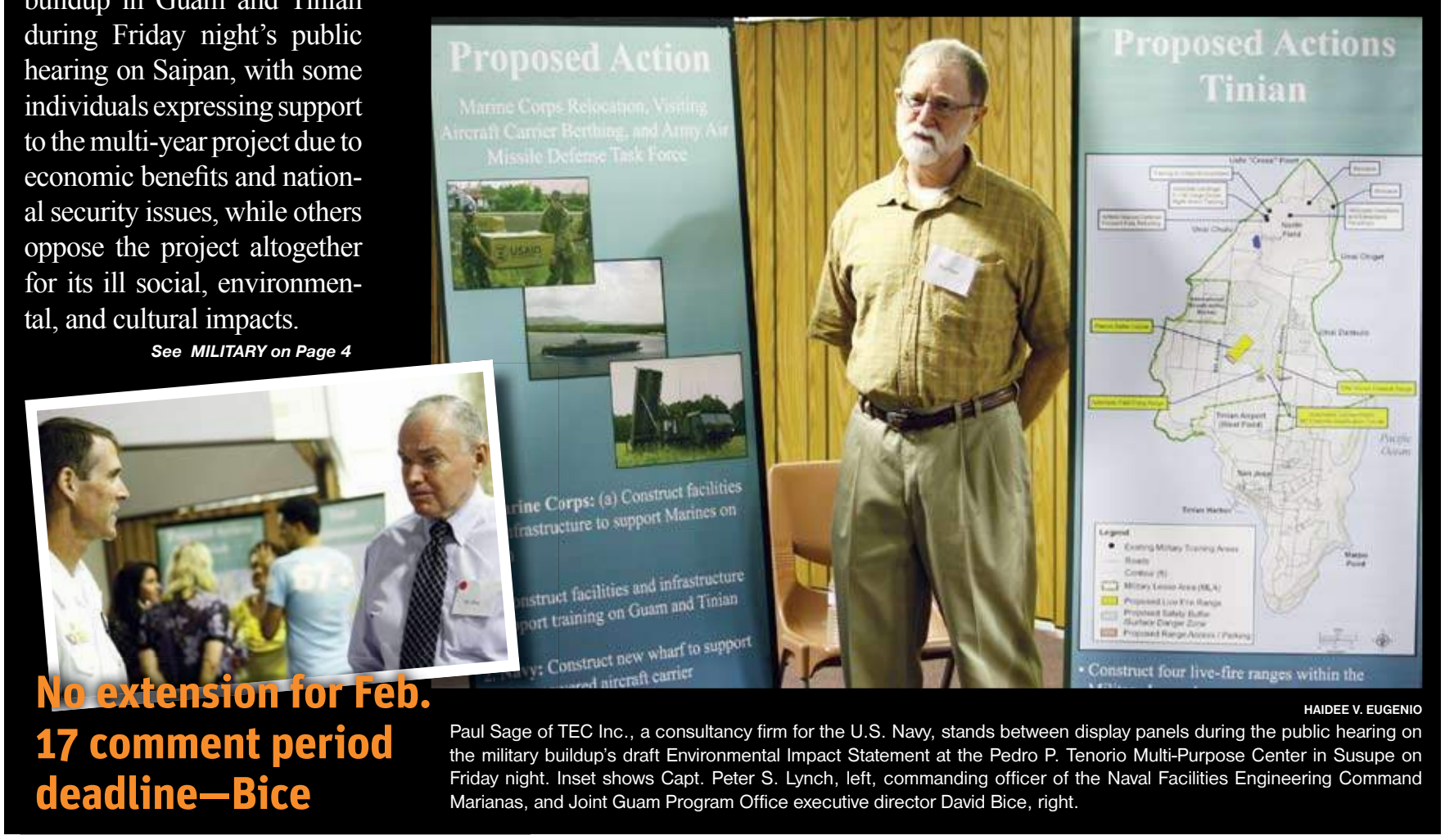
REPORTER

Residents weighed the pros and cons of the $15- to $20-billion military buildup in Guam and Tinian during Friday night's public hearing on Saipan, with some individuals expressing support to the multi-year project due to economic benefits and national security issues, while others oppose the project altogether for its ill social, environmental, and cultural impacts.

See MILITARY on Page 4


Proposed Action
Marine Corps Relocation, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air Missile Defense Task Force
USAID
Proposed Actions
Tinian

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Paul Sage of TEC Inc., a consultancy firm for the U.S. Navy, stands between display panels during the public hearing on the military buildup's draft Environmental Impact Statement at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday night. Inset shows Capt. Peter S. Lynch, left, commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, and Joint Guam Program Office executive director David Bice, right.

No extension for Feb. 17 comment period deadline—Bice

Two teenagers plead guilty to murder of MHS security guard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two teenagers entered on Friday a guilty plea in the 2008 murder of a security guard at Marianas High School in Susupe.

Eric Rabauliman, 19, and Edward Blas, 17, through their respective coun-

See TEENAGERS on Page 4

Bellas seeks court's approval of $625K donations to 14 non-profit organizations. **PAGE 2**

PSS posts over $1M power, water usage in 1Q. **PAGE 5**

Local

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Bellas seeks court's approval of $625K donations to 14 non-profit organizations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Garment Workers Trust Fund has asked the federal court to approve the charitable donations of $625,000 to 14 of 18 non-profit organizations.

GWTF chair Timothy Bellas said that, during a meeting via telephone on Jan. 12, 2010, the GWTF trustees reviewed, discussed, and approved disbursement of the remaining trust funds to 14 of the 18 charitable requests made to the GWFT for donations.

"The approval of the trustees was conditioned on the confirmation of the trustee recommendations by this Court," said Bellas in his report filed on Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In the same report, Bellas also asked the court to approve the fourth interim request for approval of fees and expenses, the accounting to the court as to the two GWTF. accounts, and the operations account.

Bellas

The former judge requested the court to approve all their requests without a hearing or otherwise on shortened notice to allow the expeditious closing of GWTF.

According to GWTF's report on $625,000 charitable donations, Karidat and the American Red Cross will receive the biggest amounts—$125,000 and $100,000 respectively.

GWTF also approved the donation of $85,000 to the Micronesian Legal Services, $60,000 to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, $50,000 to Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, and $30,000 to Center for Living Independently in CNMI.

The trustees approved the donation of $25,000 each to the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and The Family Wellness Organization.

The trustees granted the donation of $20,000 each to NMI Council for Humanities, Saipan Swim Club, and Whispering Palms School. The Saipan Southern High School will receive $15,000.

GWTF disapproved donations requested by the Citizens to Change Article XII, Green Meadow School's PTA Association, MDX Amateur Radio Club, and NMI Swimming Federation.

Several former garment workers have expressed disappointment with the proposed distribution of thousands of money to non-profit organizations. The workers said they received only a small amount when the money should be distributed to them.

Bellas said he tried to explain to the workers individually and by way of a letter to the editor published in the local newspapers, that the two payments to the settlement class members (former garment workers) have been made in accordance with the terms of the settlement agreement.

GWTF has over $600,000 leftover money in the $20-million settlement in the class action against the garment industry.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the GWTF. GOB was set up pursuant to the settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry.

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Please send the requested information to the following by 5:00PM, January 22, 2010, to USACE, Real Estate, Bldg. 230, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440 or FAX (808) 438-1328. Send your email responses to Larry.D.Degroot@usace.army.mil. You will be contacted upon receipt of your information.

Man charged for altering expired merchant marine officer's license

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has charged a man for altering an expired U.S. Merchant Marine Officer's license to create an impression he was still a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed master who was entitled to undertake maritime responsibilities.

The U.S. government filed on Thursday an information charging Drayton Crestwell Reeves with misuse of a federal license and false statement.

Reeves signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

During Friday's hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Reeves who was with counsel Loren Sutton pleaded guilty to misuse of a federal license.

"I plead guilty your honor," Reeves told the court.

Chief Judge Alex Munson accepted the plea agreement and the defendant's guilty plea. He set the sentencing hearing for April 20, 2010 at 10am.

Munson remanded Reeves into the custody of the U.S. Marshal for processing. The defendant was temporarily freed with some bail conditions.

Munson

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly R. McCallum stated in the information that Reeves committed a misuse of a federal license on July 231, 2006 when he unlawfully used and exhibited a U.S. Coast Guard United States Merchant Marine Officer's License.

McCallum said at the time the defendant knew that he was not lawfully entitled to use and exhibit such license.

The prosecutor said Reeves committed false statement on July 28, 2009 when during an interview with the USCG on Saipan, he stated and represented to USCG Lieutenant Junior Grade Dericka Fortson that he had a valid merchant marine officer license.

Reeves claimed he was not in possession of this license because he had submitted it to the USCG National Maritime Center for renewal.

"These statements and representations gave the overall false impression that the defendant was legally authorized to operate vessels, the operation of which is limited to USCG-licensed masters, though the defendant knew that at the time of these statements and representations that he was not lawfully authorized as a USCG-licensed master and had not submitted a valid license to the National Maritime Center for renewal," McCallum said.

According to the plea agreement, in 2003 and again on or before July 28, 2009, Reeves altered the U.S. Merchant Marine Officer's License number 778908.

That license expired in May 2001. Reeves, however, altered it by covering and deleting the dates of issue and expiration thereon.

The defendant then added and interpolated false dates of issue and expiration.

Reeves further altered the license by covering and deleting the endorsement originally granted to him by the USCG. He added and interpolated false endorsements, then photographed and altered the license number.

The copy of the license created the impression that Reeves was still a USCG-licensed master.

On July 21, 2006, Reeves used the photocopy of the altered license in order to secure employment at Saipan Crew Boats.

The Saipan Crew Boats' operations manager, who was unaware that it was an altered license, submitted a copy of the altered license to the USCG.

Ex-convict allegedly burglarizes house, steals gold wedding rings, assorted jewelry

The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges against an ex-convict who allegedly burglarized a house and stole three gold wedding rings and other assorted jewelry.

The OAG charged Clifford Palacios Masga, 21, with burglary and theft.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback stated in the charging information that Masga burglarized the house of David Palacios and Ling Lin Palacios on Oct. 16, 2006.

Hasselback said Masga stole three gold wedding rings, three gold pendants, one gold wrist bracelet, three gold ankle bracelets, and one silver wrist watch belonging to David and Ling Palacios.

The stolen jewelries total value was $3,410, according to the prosecutor.

In February 2009, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona handed an 11-day jail term on Masga for conspiracy to commit robbery in connection with the armed robbery at Golden Poker in San Antonio.

Police said three masked men, armed with a crowbar, pipe and hammer, robbed the poker establishment of $4,045 cash on April 12, 2007.

Masga and three other men were arrested on that same month and subsequently charged. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Fitial vetoes bill on re-computation of retirement benefits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Friday a bill seeking to re-compute retirement benefits, saying that it "harms" the NMI Retirement Fund which now has some $560 million in unfunded liabilities.

"Approving this legislation is irresponsible and adds to the unfunded liability of the NMIRF," Fitial said in his Jan. 15 veto message to House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate Pres. Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

House Bill 16-68, SD1, offered by former House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, seeks to allow retirees who opted out of government health insurance coverage to enroll in that plan by paying in full the cost.

Section 3 of the bill proposes to amend Section 8392 of Public Law 15-70 to allow retirees who are re-employed by the government to have their retirement benefits re-computed based on re-employment services.

"Although the measure as introduced is laudable, the amendment harms the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund," the governor said.

Juan Sablan, chairman of the Commonwealth Retirement Association, earlier asked the governor to disapprove the bill, saying it would further hurt the fiscal state of the NMI Retirement Fund.

The Fund earlier noted that the re-computation would be an added benefit for members without the necessary independent source of funding.

Lawmakers who favored the legislation had argued that retirees are entitled to re-computation if they are re-employed by the government.

First veto in 2010

The Retirement Fund bill is the first measure to be vetoed this year by the governor.

The last bill vetoed by Fitial, on Dec. 14, was the measure designating Lau Lau Bay as a boat launching site to facilitate quicker response times for emergencies located in the eastern coastline of Saipan.

The 16th House of Representatives, however, before adjourning sine die, overrode the governor's veto of House Bill 16-219, HD1. The bill is now Public Law 16-49.

TEENAGERS

From Page 1

sels Lillian Tenorio and Bruce Berline respectively, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government.

Rabauliman and Blas both pleaded guilty to first degree murder.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja accepted the plea agreement and the defendants' guilty plea.

The judge ordered the Adult Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence investigation and set the sentencing for May 20, 2010.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher represented the CNMI government in the case.

The change of plea hearing for the third defendant, Randy Igisomar, did not push through. Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for the 17-year-old Igisomar, in the last hearing held Dec. 7, 2009, informed the court that they were still negotiating with the prosecution.

Rabauliman, Blas, and Igisomar are being charged with first-degree murder, burglary, conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

The three teenagers are accused of killing Efren Lagua Ballesteros on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008.

When the murder happened, the defendants were students at MHS. Rabauliman was 18, while Igisomar and Blas were both 16.

Police said Rabauliman and Igisomar had confessed to the crimes during interrogation, saying they attacked the security guard with a piece of wood, a PVC pipe, and a rebar. The defendants then broke into several classrooms at MHS where they stole laptops and money.

Ballesteros, 45, a Filipino, was found dead at MHS campus where he was assigned. His wallet containing $300 cash was reportedly stolen along with his wristwatch.

MILITARY

From Page 1

"Our economy is drying up. The local people are leaving because of lack of jobs here. We need the military, but we need to work together," said former Rep. Manny Tenorio.

Martin Manglona, for his part, said there's no reason to be scared about military training ranges on Tinian.

"All plans on Tinian are for small ranges, nothing else. We have it in Kannat Tabla, so there's no problem," said Manglona, adding that local people could get jobs and could find other business opportunities such as supplying fresh produce to the military.

Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero of the Guam-based We Are Guahan which is opposed to the military buildup, said the buildup intends tso carry out U.S. Department of Defense plans, and "does not intend to help residents."

She said that CNMI residents should never forget the environmental problems caused by the U.S. military in Tanapag, referring to the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination of soil and land crabs on Saipan's northern village.

Leon Guerrero also urged people to visit their website, www.WeAreGuahan.com, to know more about the group's strong opposition to the buildup.

Among other things, the group said the majority of the 18,000 jobs coming through the buildup will go to off-island workers and not local residents, and the buildup's draft Environmental Impact Statement does not mention military commitment to give Guam the money necessary to develop infrastructure to support a huge population influx.

They were among the estimated 30 members of the community, and another 30-plus Navy personnel and military contractors at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday night for the Joint Guam Program Office's public hearing on the buildup's draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The number of people who showed up in both the public hearings on Tinian and Saipan were far below the numbers on Guam wherein the hearings drew 200 to 400 people.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said there are issues not related to the military buildup that the people of Tinian also want to be addressed, including the needed repair of the outer seawall and piers.

"It would be great (if the military funds it) but they won't because it's not a military wharf. That has to be a Commonwealth project or funded from a separate funding because it's not a military harbor; it's commercial. And I've also been telling people that this is a military buildup in Guam. Tinian is only ancillary of the buildup and if people think that someone is going to get rich from the Tinian portion of the buildup, I would like to know how because I haven't seen it," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

'No more comment period extension'

Sixto Igisomar, speaking as a member of the public, asked for more time to review and comment on the draft environment impact statement on the military buildup.

There are some 11,000 pages of documents on the draft EIS/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement on the military buildup.

The draft EIS/OES can be accessed online at www.guambuildupeis.us.

Retired Maj. Gen. David Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office, said JGPO believes that the 90-day comment period ending on Feb. 17 is sufficient.

"We've had well over 1,600 people come out to our public hearings where they asked questions and got their questions answered by experts. We've also gotten a lot of comments online as well as during the hearings," Bice told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bice said there had been enough public outreach programs on the project, including public scoping in 2007, as well as partnership sessions with the local government and the regulators like the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We believe that our effort has been really unprecedented because this is a pretty large realignment and we had an unprecedented approach in terms of reaching out to the public and the regulators to ensure that our document is complete," he said.

Bice said "every comment is important," and every comment will be evaluated. The comments will also be recorded in Volume 10 of the final EIS.

"I can tell you that we are going to make adjustments to the EIS. We've heard comments made by people as we go along. I would make a mental note (when I hear) a solid comment that we need to take a look at either the plan or the phraseology that's in the EIS that may not be as clear as it should have been. So I can tell you that we are going to make adjustments to the EIS based upon the comments we received," he added.

Townhall meetings

Despite the end of the six public hearings held in Guam, Tinian, and Saipan, there are still opportunities for residents to know more about the draft EIS/OES.

Tom Linden, coordinator for the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee, said MIMC, in partnership with the Office of Economic Adjustment and the Guam Advisory Consulting Team, will be hosting a public forum on Jan. 27, Wednesday, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

He said representatives of the OEA and ACT will break down the 11,000-page EIS and be willing to answer any questions regarding the military buildup. The public is encouraged to submit questions ahead of time to the MIMC coordinator by sending e-mails to cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp.

MIMC, created in June 2009, serves as the planning and policy making entity for all activities related to the expansion of military training and other defense transformation initiatives in the CNMI and Guam. It is the official entity through which the CNMI will interface with the U.S. Department of the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, JGPO, the Department of Defense, and all other military representatives regarding the military buildup.

The Tinian plan

Because Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines, the military looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability.

Tinian is only about 100 miles or 160 kilometers away from Guam.

The northern two-thirds of Tinian are leased to the U.S. Department of Defense. Company and battalion level non-live fire training areas already exist and are used on these lease parcels.

"The land, however, could be developed to accommodate live fire ranges," the draft EIS/OES stated.

The proposed actions on Tinian include firing ranges for rifle known distance, automated combat pistol, platoon battle course, and field firing; and airspace use.

Comments on the draft EIS/OES can be submitted online, or during the public hearings set by the U.S. Navy in Guam and the CNMI.

BUSINESS

From Page 1

relieve him of lingering back pain.

"While a few let their bitterness make them appear easily 'outraged' and easily 'appalled', it is way too early to suggest that (Lt. Gov. Eloy S.) Inos take over as governor. I would suggest that you try some due diligence in place of your misplaced activism. Patience is a virtue," Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday.

Torres aligned with Fitial's Covenant Party which now has a majority in the 20-member House of Representatives.

Media outlets in Asia Pacific to the U.S. mainland and Europe continue to pick up the story on the unauthorized release of the 28-year-old masseuse. Blogs, Facebook discussions, and letters to the editor also continue to pick apart the incident some labeled "Massage-Gate."

Tina Sablan, a former lawmaker and who successfully sued Fitial for the non-release of financial documents related to the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization, said yesterday that "it is fairly evident that there are quite a few members of this community who are mounting a movement on various fronts to remove Fitial from office."

Sablan said Fitial committed a "major and outrageous abuse of power" by ordering the unauthorized release of a detainee who was just recently indicted on human trafficking charges and who was being held without bail because she was determined to be a flight risk.

Sablan said there are people on island and off island who want to sign a recall petition.

"Lots of concerned and outraged individuals who are gathering and sharing information, and weighing their options for next steps," she said.

'Not under our jurisdiction'

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the inmate in question is under federal jurisdiction, and it would be "up to the federal government to do what they want to do."

"It's not under our jurisdiction," said Tenorio, when asked whether the House of Representatives will open an investigation into Fitial's actions that led to the release from prison of his massage therapist.

The masseuse is currently being held without bail for being one of the two alleged ringleaders behind the failed attempt of 24 Chinese nationals to illegally enter Guam.

The inmate's temporary release came three days before his swearing in for a second term in office on Jan. 11.

The masseuse was released during the early morning hours of Jan. 8 to massage the governor at his private residence. Later that day, Fitial had other visitors to his Gualo Rai house—his former gubernatorial opponent, Republican Heinz S. Hofschneider and his running mate, former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Business as usual

Press Secretary Angel A. Demapan said the Fitial administration stands firm on its statement to the media about the incident. The statement explained Fitial and Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan's side of the story.

He said it's business as usual at the Office of the Governor, although some employees were also asking why Fitial had to request for the release of a federal inmate for a massage.

"We continue to remain focused on addressing the Commonwealth's pressing matters," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Friday, for example, Fitial vetoed a bill seeking the re-computation of retirement benefits. ***(See full story on Page 4)***

Fitial and Inos are also conducting performance reviews for all Cabinet members and appointees after receiving the preliminary report by the Transition Committee.

Evidentiary hearing

On Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson approved the request of Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham to reset the Jan. 15 evidentiary hearing on the alleged unauthorized release of Qing Mei Cheng.

The evidentiary hearing has been reset for Feb. 17, 2010.

Buckingham said the extension would give him more time review the basis of the hearing and will also give the Commonwealth time to file pleadings on behalf of one or more of the individuals who were scheduled to appear at the evidentiary hearing.

PSS posts over $1M power, water usage in 1Q

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

For the first quarter of the fiscal year 2010, public schools already posted over $1 million in water and power consumption—an indication that if the trend continues the Public School System will bear a greater shortfall on its utilities.

PSS acting comptroller Lori Grizzard said PSS received a total billing of $1.025 million for October, November, and December for its water and power usage on the three islands.

PSS, which is operating under a continuing budget level of $34 million, has only $3 million allotted budget for utilities for the whole year.

The rest of the allocation is appropriated for the salary of its personnel.

The acting comptroller also indicated that for October 2009, PSS was billed $281,000 for utility consumption by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The amount significantly went up to $381,000 in November and slightly reduced in December, recording a monthly consumption of $361,000.

During Thursday's Board of Education meeting, Grizzard reported that some schools are not cooperating with PSS' call of conserving utilities in their campuses.

"The record is not going down…but continue to go up," she said, adding the need to re-emphasize to the school administrators the need to track and monitor their daily consumption.

Saipan Tribune learned that majority of all the schools are using smart meters.

However, some schools are showing excessive usage even with the installation of these smart meters which calculate usage based on actual consumption.

Grizzard cited as an example a Head Start center that racked up a $11,000 bill for water consumption in just two months. The said center was previously billed an estimated $300 monthly water usage until it went up to $5,000 per month.

Grizzard admitted that PSS has yet to pay anything on this billing but admitted that PSS will encounter a difficult situation if the concern is not addressed.

According to board member Herman T. Guerrero, one way to motivate schools to seriously administer energy conservation is to offer incentives for those who are showing good faith in conserving

Under the continuing budget ceiling for FY10, PSS will operate $26.6 million for personnel; all others, $2.7 million; and utilities, $3 million.

This shows a variance of approximately $2 million less than the actual appropriation in the past fiscal year. It was in FY 2007 when the system started paying for its utilities, an obligation previously shouldered by the administration. PSS is administering 20 public schools, 10 Head Start centers, employ over 1,000 personnel, and enroll nearly 11,000 students from three islands.

Saipan Tribune learned that the last budget law enacted pegs PSS' spending level at $35 million. If the pending budget bill is enacted, PSS will get an estimated $33 million—the lowest in 20 years.

PSS earlier emphasized that even with the uncertain time, student academic achievement is rising while there is a continued decline in spending allocation.

Among PSS initiatives this school year is the energy conservation where school-based projects will be initiated to reduce energy consumption and promote green activities. The schools will also work on expanding alternative energy to include windmill and solar panels at five additional schools, including Saipan Southern High School.

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8-hour work reduction at CPA eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Newly-appointed Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero disclosed that the agency may subject all its employees to reduced work hours this fiscal year as a result of low revenue projections for both airports and seaports.

From the existing biweekly 80 hours of duty, the figure will be reduced to 72 or 64 hours depending on what the budget will dictate, he said.

Deleon Guerrero said a review and study of the current operational budget is being conducted to determine if there's a need to also streamline the employees' number to date. The agency has 180 personnel working on its airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to CPA comptroller Frances Mafnas, the autonomous agency is not relying on any local funding but from revenues generated from the seaport and airports operation.

Mafnas disclosed that projected airport revenue is $10.4 million for fiscal year 2010, while $6.7 million forecast revenue for seaport.

At the airport side, CPA is making money on the fees collected from signatory airlines, from tenants and concessionaires at the airport facilities.

Meantime, seaport revenues are source from the wharfage fees it collect from using the ports facilities.

Mafnas said the total projected revenue of $17.1 million is the amount used by CPA in its operation and personnel cost.

Funding for the various airport projects are yielded from the grants provided by the Federal Aviation Administration and other granting agencies.

Saipan Tribune learned that a recommendation from the agency's comptroller indicated the need to enforce 8-hour work reduction starting in April 2010 through the end of the fiscal year.

Based on the comptroller's analysis, CPA will not meet the 1.25 bond ratio for both airport and seaport if the agency will maintain the 80-hour work schedule.

Because the $17.1 million is only a projected figure for the fiscal year, Mafnas emphasized that "actual" monthly revenue will still affect the daily operation of the agency.

"If actual monthly figures indicate a much lower projection, this will result to more drastic measure of going into 64-hour work reduction for all employees," she admitted.

However, she emphasized that the recommendation has been submitted to the executive director who may or may not seek the board's approval for implementation.

It was in fiscal year 1998 when CPA employees were reduced of their work hours for 10 months. After almost nine years, the agency was subjected again to the same 72-hour work reduction for more than a year.

If the board will approve the comptroller's proposal, this will be the third time that the agency will be suffering from same salary reduction.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the CPA, as a self-sustaining body, is not required to comply with the salary reduction proposal of the executive department for FY 2010.

However, if the budget of the agency is not enough to sustain the expenditures for both personnel and operation, Deleon Guerrero admitted that they have no choice but to enforce the drastic measures.

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Obama signs omnibus appropriations bill

$1.35 million earmarked for NMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Obama has signed into law an omnibus appropriations bill containing $1,350,000 in special projects for the Northern Mariana Islands, requested by Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. This marks the first time that congressionally requested earmarks have been available to the NMI, one of the benefits of having representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I am very glad that I have been able to use the office of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to obtain funding for projects and organizations that otherwise might not have the money they need," said Kilili.

A common theme to most of the projects funded at Sablan's request is education.

"I truly believe that our economic success—our health as a community—30, 40, 50 years ahead depends on educating ourselves now," Sablan said. "That's where I put my efforts for this special funding, and education will continue to be one of my top legislative priorities in Congress."

Sablan singled out Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) for their assistance in obtaining the extra funding for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The leadership of the House Democratic Caucus has been most supportive of my efforts," said Sablan. "I am very grateful to Chairman Obey and Leader Hoyer—and their respective staffs—for helping me secure funding for these projects."

The seven projects for which Kilili obtained funding are:

Refaluwasch and Chamorro language programs for PSS—$250,000. The Refaluwasch and Chamorro language programs will each receive $125,000 to add to the Public School System's ongoing efforts to preserve the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of the Northern Marianas. Without a conscious effort to keep culture and language alive, Carolinian and Chamorro, as other indigenous languages around the world, face a decline among younger generations.

NMTI for vocational and technical training—$200,000. The Northern Marianas Trade Institute will receive $200,000 to expand current programs, hire new instructors, and purchase teaching materials and instructional equipment. NMTI provides valuable vocational training skills to individuals so that they can work in the trades or start their own businesses.

Garapan Public Market, design and construction—$200,000. The Garapan Public Market is an economic development project. The market will be a centralized facility where fresh produce, seafood, and other local products can be available to consumers on a daily basis. With permanent structures and utilities that allow for refrigeration and food processing, farmers, fishermen, and craftspeople will be able to package, display and sell their products to the local community and to tourists. In addition to the economic benefits, by providing another source for fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood the Market will be a boon to public health.

Sablan

Micronesian Legal Services, Rota and Tinian outreach— $180,000. The $180,000 earmark for Micronesian Legal Services Corporation will be split among three projects. First, it will allow MLSC to dedicate an attorney to serve the legal needs of low-income populations on Tinian and Rota, which now only receive once-monthly visits from MLSC. Second, MLSC will be better able to help low-income applicants for visas, keeping families together and protecting those who are victims of crime and of human trafficking. Third, MLSC will upgrade its online case management software. The software aids in tracking cases, intra-office communications, and compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, roof repairs—$200,000. The Public library is in need of a new roof. This $200,000 grant will help protect the valuable collection of books and other media now at risk from water damage in the library.

DFW, educational programs on marine sanctuaries—$220,000. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife will be able to use this $220,000 special appropriation to educate the public about marine sanctuaries and to obtain information about how the public views this kind of protection for the marine resources of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PSS purchase of library books and educational materials—$100,000. $100,000 will be available to PSS for the purchase of books and other educational materials for elementary and secondary schools in Tinian, Rota, and Saipan. Many of the children in our islands do not have the access to the vast array of media and reading materials available to their peers in the mainland United States. The books purchased with this grant will help expand the educational horizons of our students and improve their literacy skills.

Sablan has also begun soliciting requests for Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations. Letters are going out to some 50 government agencies and non-profit organizations, setting out the guidelines and the timeline for making requests. ***(PR)***

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on January 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before January 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than January 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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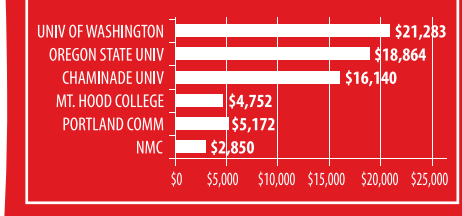

Spring 2010 Semester Dates

Registration
January 11 to January 16, 2010

Late Registration (Extended)
January 19, 2010

First Day for Spring Classes
January 19, 2010

Add & Drop Week (100% Refund)
January 19 to January 22, 2010

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admission and Records at 234-5498 extension 1537.

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TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: VOC.REHAB@SAIPAN.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2010 1st General Membership Meeting on Friday January 29, 2010 at the Chamolinian Room at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of 09-03-09 Minutes
IV. Reports
- Chair
- OVR Director
- CLI Director

V. Old Business
- ARRA Funds

VI. New Business
- Resource Plan
- Election of Officers

VII. Miscellaneous
VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live Fire Release, Laser OPS on FDM set

The Emergency Management Office, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Force Marianas, Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S Military would be conducting Live Fire Release and Laser OPS on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

■ Jan. 19, 2010 from 11:15am-3: 30pm, 20EBS laser ops and live fire training.

■ Jan. 20-22 from 8am-3pm, 20 EBS laser ops and live fire training.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Filing of 4Q tax returns on Feb. 1

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 fourth quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Monday, Feb 1, 2010. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Monday Feb. 1, 2010. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For additional information call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1065 Collection Branch. ***(PR)***

2009 W-2CM Forms and Instruction out Wednesday

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI employers that the distribution of the 2009 W2-CM Forms and Instruction will begin on Wednesday. Jan. 20, 2010 from 8am-4pm, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Dandan Commercial Center. All business and employers are asked to pick up the forms during the regular business hours beginning Jan. 20, 2010. Please be reminded that the Deadline for filing 2009 W-2CM form is Monday 1, 2010 at 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 18, 1999

Capital flight warned

Businessman of the year Joe Ayuyu has warned that the $1 billion class suit filed against garment manufacturers and buyers, will force the immediate departure of the industry and leave the island in deeper economic trouble. Since the Asian financial crisis began 16 months ago, the Northern Marianas tourism economy has been battered, leaving the CNMI to depend heavily on the revenue from the garment industry. Garment manufacturers here ship some $1 billion worth of apparel products to the United States every year.

US team arrives today for talks

White House negotiator Edward B. Cohen, along with four other US officials, will arrive today on Saipan to resume the stalled 902 discussions that are expected to focus on differences on the implementation of CNMI's labor and immigration policies. Cohen, who is Clinton's special representative to the four-day talks, is arriving 8:30 pm, his first visit to the CNMI, and still determined to take up transition to federal immigration and minimum wage laws when he meets with the seven-man local panel beginning Tuesday. Joining Cohen to the consultations, last held in 1992, are Tim Elliot, a longtime career person in the Interior Solicitor's office; Dan Sweeney, head of the Fair Labor Standard Office of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor; Alexander Gisser, associate general counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Jay Dowling, director of the Industry Assessment Division, Office of Textiles and Apparel of the Department of Commerce.

Jan. 18, 2000

Probe on canceled 80-MW power project mulled

An investigation may be conducted by lawmakers to look into the cancellation by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Saipan's 80-megawatt power plant after the government corporation spent over half-a-million dollars for procurement of a project that took nearly three years. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes at the same time questioned the study on the island's power load that was undertaken by independent consultants hired by CUC based on information the utility firm had provided. Asking utility officials to justify expenditures of at least $500,000 only to junk the project, the outspoken senator raised the possibility of the probe to determine who should be held liable for what he claimed as "wasted taxpayers' money."

JTB eyes 3 percent hike in overseas Japanese travel

The Japan Travel Bureau has projected that a total of 16.92 million Japanese will travel in the year 2000 or a 3.2 percent jump from the previous record of 16.80 million in 1997. JTB, the world's biggest tour operator, said numerous millennial events planned should stimulate demand for overseas travel, including the Sydney Olympics where Japan will be competing in the soccer events. The present high exchange rate for the yen may also encourage young women office workers to go overseas to shop. JTB expects the number of Japanese who will travel within Japan to reach a total of 325.44 million, or a 1.8 percent jump this year.

Jan. 18, 2001

How safe is the Northern Marianas?

The Department of Public Safety received a total of 11,008 complaints. Of these, 4,297 were official cases handled by the Criminal Investigation Section last year. Some 1,094 cases were sent to the Attorney General's Office for their disposition. Capt. Delbert Sablan said 150 cases were considered closed either due to lack of evidence or the complainants no longer interested to pursue the case. The remaining 3,053 cases are still under investigation. An average of 400 cases a month are received by the Criminal Investigation Division. About 50 to 70 of the cases are no longer pursued because the victims no longer want to cooperate.

NMIRF wants 30 percent of tobacco money for GHLIP

As the Legislature moves to identify how the funds received by the CNMI under the tobacco master settlement agreement must be spent, the Retirement Fund yesterday asked the Senate to set aside 30 percent of the total amount for use by the government's Group Health & Life Insurance program. In a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona, NMIRF Board Chair Vicente C. Camacho said medical expenses for the treatment of tobacco related diseases of the members have contributed to the depletion of the GHLI funds.

Nomads make brief stop on Saipan

Nomads Flying Clubhouse made a three-day stop on Saipan last week as they continued their goal to once again circumnavigate the globe.

The Nomads selected Hyatt Regency Saipan for their three-day stay and chose Pacific Development Inc. as its ground handling agent.

They were very amazed with the rich history of the island and could not get over the thought of how beautiful and clean the island was and how wonderful and friendly the people were.

Upon arrival, Marianas Visitors Authority arranged for local dancers to welcome the guests with the island's trademark warm hafa adai spirit. Ms. 2009 Liberation Queen Isabel Castro-Muna also presented them with shell leis.

When they arrived at the Hyatt the warm hafa adai greeting continued as the hotel's dancers, staff, and management welcomed the guests by providing them an island-style coconut drink and welcome song.

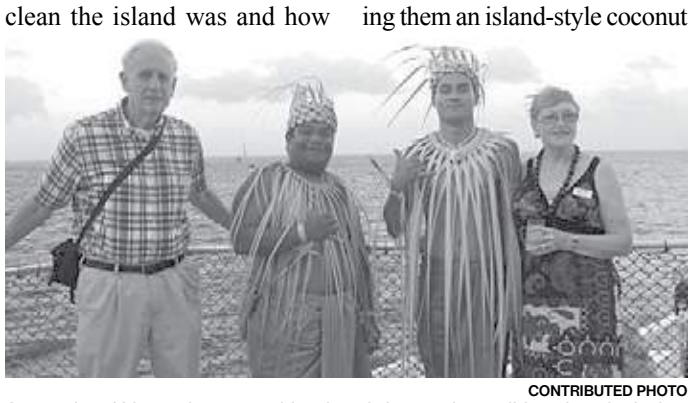
Three days of nonstop sightseeing followed, were the Nomads visited Managaha Island, where they went swimming and enjoyed the day.

The group was delighted to learn that the local government is protecting the CNMI's marine resources.

The Nomads admired the beauty and pristine setting of Saipan so much that they wished to stay another day. But their tight scheduled prevented that from happening.

Before arriving on Saipan, the group was on Kona, Hawaii. After leaving Saipan, the Nomads made Saigon, Vietnam its next stop.

The Nomads took their first around-the-world trip in 1973. At the end of 2006, the travel club had traveled over nine million air miles and members had traveled over 850 million miles in total safety. Those records continue to grow today. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A couple of Nomads pose with a local dancer in traditional garb during a dinner cruise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The group enjoy one of Saipan's picture-perfect sunsets.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, January 22, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - o Status Updates
  - o Individual Recommendations
- Board Consultant Reports
  - o Financial Statements – October 2009
  - o Flash Reports – December 2009

III OLD BUSINESS
- Office Space Lease Review & Action
- Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan Investment Request Review and Action
- High Yield Investment RFP Review & Action

IV COMMUNICATIONS
- Open Government Act Request – Rep. R. Yumul
- Request for Comments – Saipan Tribune Reporter
- Administrative Error Inquiry – Deloitte
- A&E Request for Proposal

V NEW BUSINESS
- Strategic Plan Proposal
- Service Providers Review

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

Public Notice

Hereby giving notice that the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) will hold their Annual meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Health Center, Secretary's Conference Room 3, Saipan

I. Attendance
- Roll call
- Approval of Agenda
- Review and Approval of Minutes

II. Program Director's Report

III. New Business
- Election of New Officers

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ Alexander A. Sablan
President

P.O. Box 7997 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8728/682-0050 Fax: (670) 236-8728
www.ccamarianas.org

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are available at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

January 20th – Wednesday
Dandan Head Start
San Antonio Head Start
WSR Head Start

January 21st – Thursday
Kagman Head Start
Oleai Head Start

January 22nd – Friday
Garapan Head Start
Tanapag Head Start

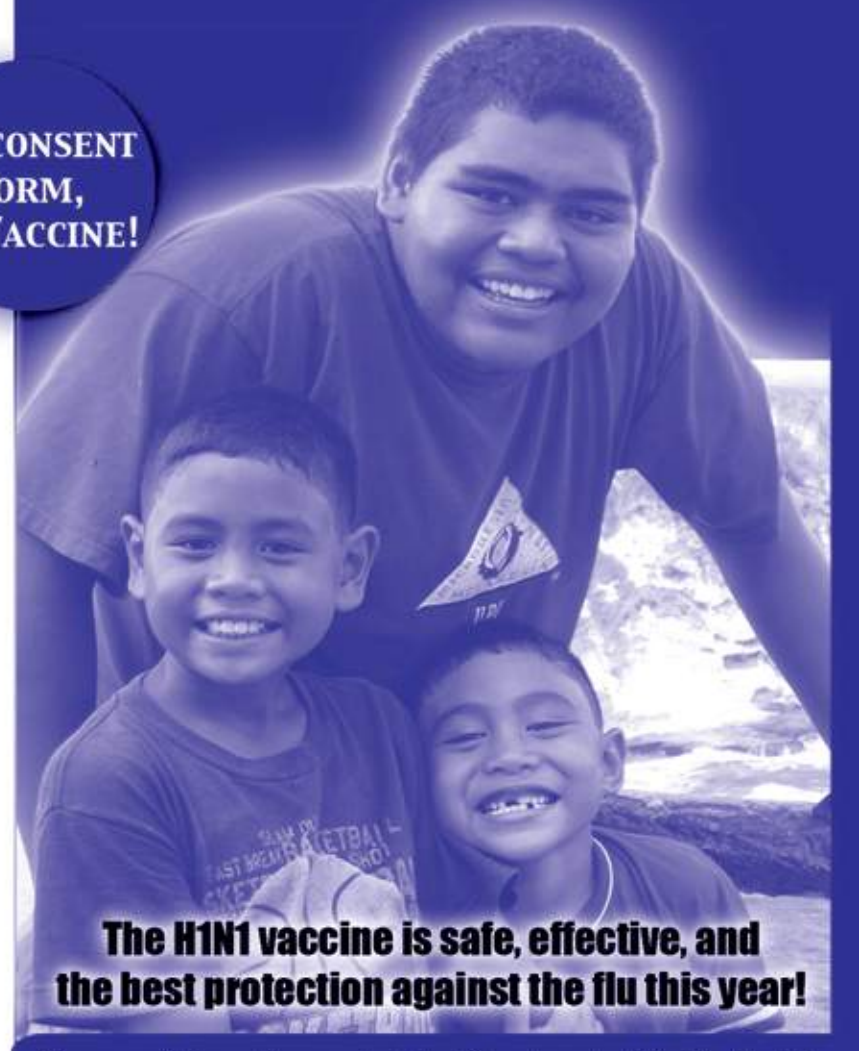
January 27th – Wednesday
Kagman Elementary School
Garapan Elementary School

January 28th – Thursday
Dandan Elementary School
Oleai Elementary School
San Vicente Elementary School

January 29th – Friday
Koblerville Elementary School
San Antonio Elementary School
WSR Elementary School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.



For more information, contact the Department of Public Health at 234-8950 or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com.

CDC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 14

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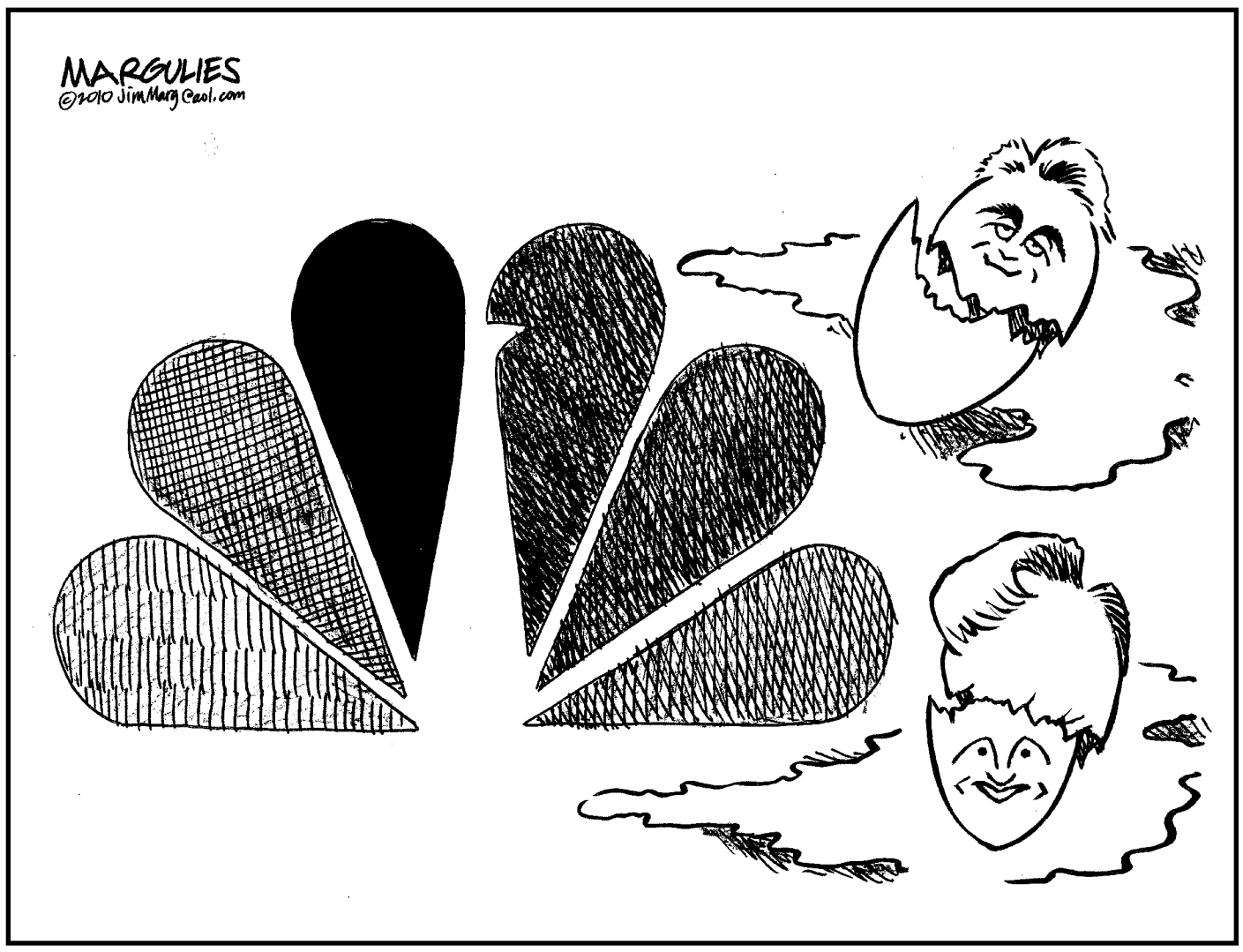


EDITORIAL

Haiti's Calamity

The deadly earthquake that struck Haiti Tuesday afternoon devastated a nation that, in the best of times, exists on the edge. Although the death toll is anyone's guess at this point, it seems likely to be in the tens of thousands at a minimum, given the proximity of the quake's epicenter to the densely packed capital of Port-au-Prince, the rickety dwellings in which so many of the city's 2 million people lived and the near-knockout blow the quake delivered to the country's capacity to respond. The Red Cross estimates that as many as 3 million people, a third of Haiti's population, may be affected; many of them are homeless. Even in a country as notoriously blighted and calamity-prone as Haiti, this is a disaster of the first order.

The international relief effort must be commensurate with the scale of this catastrophe. Devising and coordinating an effective response will be a logistical nightmare given the damage, including the crippled communications and electricity networks. The port and airport are damaged, and the road connecting the airport to the city is smashed. First responders such as the 9,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Haiti are an asset already in place, but with the collapse of their headquarters, they are struggling to cope with their own problems. Aid groups such as Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children, although they already had hundreds of relief workers in Haiti, are similarly incapacitated and unsure of how to get resources and equipment, already in dire short supply, into their staffs' hands.

There are some glimmers of hope. One is the Obama administration's quick recognition of the scope of the disaster, and the president's own pledge to do whatever it takes to meet Haiti's critical needs. Sending the USS Carl Vinson, an aircraft carrier based in Norfolk that can serve as an air transport and logistics hub just offshore, was an important first step. Coast Guard cutters, which can carry helicopters, are being deployed to Haiti. The Obama administration's move to suspend the deportation of undocumented Haitian immigrants was also helpful.

Another hopeful sign is what is shaping up as a massive public response from ordinary Americans. Relief groups that appealed for help have reported an enormous response, and not just in cash donations. Search-and-rescue teams were among the emergency workers heading into the country Wednesday; some 300 nurses volunteered their services to go to Haiti. Donations large and small are desperately needed. For those who want to help, a good place to start is the American Red Cross.

Haiti has suffered more mishaps, man-made and natural, than any country deserves—and now this. Let's hope the ingenuity, skill and speed of the international response are equal to the challenge.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

How we can help Haiti, now and beyond

By BILL CLINTON
Special to The Washington Post

As I write, we don't know the extent of the damage wrought by the earthquake that rocked the coast of Haiti on Tuesday. But a tragic number of people have been killed or injured, and early estimates indicate that nearly 3 million people—almost a third of Haiti's population—may need aid, making this one of the great humanitarian emergencies in the history of the Americas.

I met with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday and with other key U.N. leaders to discuss Haiti's immediate and long-term needs. Those who are still alive under the rubble must be found. The bodies of those who have died must be taken away. Power must be restored and roadways cleared. But what Haiti needs most is money for water, food, shelter and basic medical supplies to bring immediate relief to those who are homeless, hungry and hurt.

The entire United Nations system is working hard to meet these needs and to regroup on the ground in Haiti after the collapse of our headquarters building and the loss of many of our colleagues. The U.S. government has pledged its full support to the recovery effort, as have the governments of many other nations. Nongovernmental organizations and ordinary citizens have offered to help. Even small contributions will make a big difference in the aftermath of such destruction.

The entire United Nations system is working hard to meet these needs and to regroup on the ground in Haiti after the collapse of our headquarters building and the loss of many of our colleagues. The U.S. government has pledged its full support to the recovery effort, as have the governments of many other nations. Nongovernmental organizations and ordinary citizens have offered to help. Even small contributions will make a big difference in the aftermath of such destruction.

But after the emergency passes, the work of recovery and reconstruction will remain. Since Hillary and I first traveled to Haiti in December 1975, I have been captivated by that country's promise and peril and by the persistence of hope among its people even in the face of abuse, neglect and poverty. Already, the Haitian government and citizens, the Haitian Diaspora, neighboring countries and allies, NGOs and international groups were committed to a plan for long-term development. These efforts will need to be amended because of Tuesday's disaster, but they cannot be abandoned.

As president I worked to end a violent military dictatorship in Haiti and to restore Haiti's elected president to office. Last June, I accepted the role of U.N. special envoy for Haiti to help implement Haiti's long-term development plan by increasing foreign government assistance and private investment and by coordinating and increasing the contributions of nongovernmental groups involving more members of the Haitian Diaspora. This work helps create more jobs, better education, better health care, less deforestation and more clean energy for a nation in desperate need.

We made a good beginning, and before the earthquake I believed that Haiti was closer than ever to securing a bright future.

Despite this tragedy, I still believe that Haiti can succeed.

First we must care for the injured, take care of the dead, and sustain those who are homeless, jobless and hungry. As we clear the rubble, we will create better tomorrows by building Haiti back better: with stronger buildings, better schools and health care; with more manufacturing and less deforestation; with more sustainable agriculture and clean energy.

Establishing this foundation for a better Haitian future will require assistance from governments, businesses and private citizens. The people of Haiti deserve our support. Those eager to help can donate through the U.N. effort, my own foundation or by text message (text "HAITI" to 20222 to donate $10 to U.N. relief efforts).

In the coming days, stories of loss and the triumph of the human spirit will be told. They will call us to help — not just to restore Haiti but to assist it in becoming the strong, secure nation its people have always desired and deserved.

The writer was the 42nd president of the United States and is the U.N. special envoy for Haiti.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Seeking to dramatically improve the lives of Pakistanis

By ASIF ALI ZARDARI
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is president of Pakistan.

When I was elected president more than a year ago, Pakistan was in grave condition, strained by terrorism and a ravaged economy. Countering the effects of a decade of dictatorship requires bold actions, some of which are unpopular. I am working with Parliament to run a country, not a political campaign. The goal of our democratic government is to implement policies that will dramatically improve the lives of Pakistanis. In time, good policies will become good politics.

Our economic crisis demanded unprecedented response. On taxes, education, agriculture and energy, we have shown that we must adapt, reform and become self-sufficient. Terrorists do not want Pakistan to succeed. They want to distract us from preparing for a stable and prosperous future. After a suicide bomber killed 75 people in northwestern Pakistan this month, U.S. media reports noted that "the militants' objective is to sow terror among the general population in hopes of putting more political pressure on President Asif Ali Zardari's government to back down." But militants underestimate us. Just as our people refuse to be terrorized, our government refuses to be derailed from its course of fiscal responsibility, social accountability and financial transparency.

Restoring economic health has required raising fuel prices and taxes. These moves are understandably unpopular. Stringent terms had to be accepted to partner with the International Monetary Fund, but we understood the condition of our economy and the global economy and acted decisively.

The war against terrorism has cost Pakistan not just in lives but also in economic terms, freezing international investment and diverting priorities from social and other sectors. Despite constant challenges on multiple fronts, we took the political hits and stuck with reform. The IMF has even praised "the efforts being made by the authorities to further stabilize the economy, to advance structural reform and lay the foundations for high and sustainable growth. The early signs of recovery, declining inflation, and the improved external position are encouraging." Pakistan met IMF criteria last month to receive the "fourth tranche," or $1.2 billion, of its loan funding — no easy feat during a global recession. Corrupt governments don't reach this level of IMF partnership. The World Bank, European Union and United States have all applauded our accomplishments. This praise may be little reported, but it's far more important than the chimera of polls.

Pakistan's economic resurrection has been the product, primarily, of our own sweat and blood. The return of democracy was negotiated and carried out by the intercession of the West. Pakistanis know that expediency has at times caused the world's extended democracies to support dictatorships, as happened after Sept. 11, 2001. The West has a moral responsibility to ensure that our democratic transition continues. Long-term moral values must prevail. If the community of developed democratic nations had, after our last democratic election, crafted an innovative development plan with the scope and vision of the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II, much greater economic, political and military stability would already have been achieved. Some in my country disapprove of efforts to increase the power and fiscal responsibility of our provinces and the integrity of our institutions. Those who found comfort with dictators have resisted change. Pakistan tried it their way — and endured catastrophe. We intend to build a new Pakistan using long-term solutions based on sound fiscal management.

Now, some Western reports suggest the Pakistani military does not support the policies of our democratic government. This is not true. Not only is our military courageously battling extremists in Swat and Waziristan, and succeeding, but our troops also are supporting the country's democratic transition and adherence to our Constitution. Some in Pakistan question our international alliances because they disapprove of our allies' actions, such as Thursday's unilateral U.S. drone attack against militants in Waziristan. We should all understand that concern. But we are fighting for our lives, and Pakistan's policies cannot be based solely on what is popular. When Franklin Roosevelt threw a lifeline to Britain with the Lend-Lease program, few Americans supported challenging the Nazis. Harry Truman had less than 15 percent support among Americans to rebuild Europe. They did what was right, not what was popular, and so will we.

History has shown the difference between expedient policies and the long-term goals of true statesmen. When the history of our time is written, Pakistan's decisions will be seen as a turning point in containing international terrorism. We are building a functioning society and economy. In the end, these sometime unpopular steps will create a Pakistan that sucks the oxygen from the fire of terrorism. Those who are counting on Pakistan to back off the fight — militarily and economically — underestimate my country and me.

Chinatsaga Gi Enteru Elmundu

By JOHN DELROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guaha siete miyon (7 million) na familia manhalum gi programan food stamps entalu Agustu 2008-09. Mas ke 35 miyon mangaige guine pagu na program giya Estados Unidos de Amerika. Este i nuebu na hinalom klaru na indikasion na mas megai manchatsaga na tiempu.

Biyon pot biyon pesus dibiña i federat ya i priniponen nuebu na sisteman areglun hinemlu siempre mas ha luñu i kahan federat gi halum dies añus na tiempu. Gi mismu tiempu guaha mas ke 15 miyon na tautau mantai chechu pagu. Appottunidat chochu mas bahu. I appruebau na programa siha pot areglun ekonomia taigue gi sagan niha. I gaige, puru ti appruebau, segun I mantagfena na ekonomista siha.

Sumen nachatsaga este na asuntu ya todus nasion gi enteru elmundu pumupulan diariamiente. Gigun basnag i gobietnon federat, megai para u yamag papa` `an poduñg ginen hilu. Tat ti u distrosia gi `an gumalilig papa`. Kulan un` higante ni tumiges i granun unai siha gi papa` sapatosña `nai kalamten.

■■■

Suenu finoña i gobietnu na ti`u fan seha gi ma-adelantan ekonomian tanota ya ti umanaen` ñaihun direchun natibun Marianas gumubietnan maisague. Makomprende hafa mafafana ya dañkulu detetminasion niha para u adelanta kinalamten ekonomia ni inaminanasa pagu nu i chachafleg na kinalamten i mas mandañkulu siha na nasion. Lau maseha taiguine, u guaha sattun na dinaña yan fitmi na sinistenen natibun Marianas gi todu kinalamten pot asuntun adelantu.

Estague` siha sustansiau na asuntu ni libianu ha aminasa linala`ta deste este na sakan esta dies añus yan pagu. I sigiente:

Presiun Lana: Este na attikulu diariamente usuta guine para utilidat kandet yan hanum. I presiu trabiha ti fifitme gi sagaña. Abarambau mampus ya kada kahulu git metkau elmundu, todu nasion man inaminasa pottanmonedan niha sin ditension.

Este na attikulu ha affefekta lokue i industrian batkon aire ni kumokoni magi gi tano`ta bisita siha. Umafagcha este yan seriosu na tinilaika siha gi industrian batkon aire ni ha inklulusu maribahan mineduñg ruplanu yan amanu masesetbi na lugat siha. Mas dikiki i mineduñg batkon aire ya todu lugat ni tai ganansia siempre segurau u fan man-ma`utut prontu.

Maseha taiguine mafafana, dañkulu ditetminasion niha na debi u mapetsige adelantun ekonomia sin ditension. Lokue, gi todu kinalamten listu i dos prumutehi direchun natibu gumubietnan maisague taimanu i mapluma gi papa kontratan i inakonfotman i Covenant.

Seriosu yan sustansiau na asuntu ya debi u guaha inakomprende yan sattun na dinaña dimas de ta fan abarambau gi madifendin direchun natibu.

The King is dead. Long live the King!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

"To sleep, perchance to dream" is a phrase in the Bard's famous *Hamlet* speech popular for its oft quoted "To be or not to be" opening lines. This Prince of Denmark monologue remains the most recited soliloquy in the English language; its pathos so authentically human that spoken in any language inevitably points to the universal human condition of fear and fascination towards and over the flourish and finality of human existence. The escapist turn from the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" into "to die, to sleep, perchance to dream" has become a defining quality of our time, most vividly portrayed daily in these islands of reliance on fate and magic, games of chance and illusion, delusional flares and crystal meth snares!

Brits bid their Monarchs adieu with words similar to the title of this reflection. The other King named after Martin Luther of the Protestant Reformation was hardly asleep when he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in the Washington Mall, calling for racial equality and end to discrimination during the March for Jobs and Freedom one August day in '63, the voice stilled on a Memphis motel balcony in '68.

But the dreaming in full awareness and consciousness continues. Thus, to ask everyone as MLK, Jr. did a while back, "Where do we go from here?" is very appropriate to this year's journey into the evolving Marianas natural, social, and human spirit.

On nature's front, the Angel dude mayor of 17 Saipan watering holes reminds us that those who practice the art of governance on the Price-is-Right OS in the CNMI pegged their support of the Marianas Marine Monument at $300 million per annum cash in exchange of fisheries future earnings in waters surrounding three island group that are

Constitutionally decreed as natural preserves. Nature brooks no such pricing!

Of course, nature governs itself with its own laws. It is plausible that the shift of weight in the increase of ocean water as a result of polar ice melting and climate warming has caused the shift of weather patterns and loosen the earth crust and continental plates. We propose no blame game in Haiti's earthquake (though Club 7's suggested that Haiti's pack with the devil to kick the French out two centuries ago is the culprit!), nor the earlier tsunami in American Samoa, other than finally accede to Physics' finding that chaos is the primary rule of nature before order!

Evolution of the social spirit is something else. We have affirmed the emergence of the glocal ethos in this page, and have noticed the increasing use of the term "glocal" in other sectors. A Charter of Compassion was issued last year and is gaining momentum in the same way as the Earth Charter got universal acceptance from its humble beginnings in the Earth Summit of Rio in '92. This, on the understanding that virtually all of the world's ancient traditions emanate from the intuition that compassion is at the root of human behavior. The resultant human culture is based on choice and intentional construction.

Now, with the advent of the "think Universe, act Earth" of the ecozoic era, the social turmoil in our time is in the context of the current rebirth of outer space exploration, as we are again wide-eyed in awe and wonder of reaching out to 13.5 billion light years of what we on earth can presently reach with crafted instruments. We do so even as we plumb the depth of the inner space that our genetics, physiology, psyche, and civilization have led us thus far in our individual and personal evolutions, and have surprised and amazed us at the treasures already bestowed upon each of us. We are a veritable heap of fortune we chose to squander in internecine squabbles!

Creative deconstruction in patterns of behavior is a feature of our social evolution. Once helpful for survival in the past, certain symbols and code words have outlive their usefulness, or have turned to other use contradicting their original intentions. The swastika is a good example, dating back to neolithic times, and then flourishing in India *(svastika,* "to be good") into the terror-striking Aryan superiority swagger of the Nazis.

The same, alas, holds true with the code term "race" in America. Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier broke the racial barriers in cinema but OJ Simpson and Tiger Woods, once media's darlings, have suddenly become "black African-Americans," even as Bill Clinton and Harry Reid are skewered for suggesting that Obama, at another time, would have been delivering coffee, and Reid's presidential candidate was electable because of his light skin color. "Racist" name-calling has suddenly become vogue again, with no less than the GOP chair asking for the Senate Majority Leader's head on a silver platter!

In some circles, King's legacy is raised more as a racial icon rather than as a civil rights advocate. Given the history of the United States, this is understandable. But as Thomas Sowell of the Hoover Institute, whose opinions we hardly agree with occasionally make this page, in his tour de force *Race and Culture* world view 16 years ago, convincingly showed that "race" as a biological category hardly make any sense in policy making; it serves more to fuel emotional and incendiary diatribe. With the universal admixture of races since the circumnavigation of the globe, if not earlier, race as a functional category has lost any clear point of reference. In the glocal village, race-based policies have become, at best, passé. We see that most clearly in the non-workability of race as a qualifier of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution! Civil rights, nay, human rights, must now trump the claim of affirmative action and racial prerogatives.

Dreaming the pathway of nature-social-human evolution brings us to the radical demand of the reinvention of the human in our time. Anyone who ever wrestled with ego and personality deal with that. MLK, Jr. was immanently in his selfhood, his personality, race and culture, but he managed to transcend them in the practice of his religious faith and civic obligations, and in transcending them, made transparent the virtues of the human spirit. It is at that transfiguration that he resides in the memory of many.

Thus, when we ask today, "Where do we go from here?" the question begs the precedent one of, "Where do I go from here?" When we do dare answer that, we have the possibility of authentic communal conversations. Neither leader nor follower we become, but together we can move in synergy and collaboration! Let's talk.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

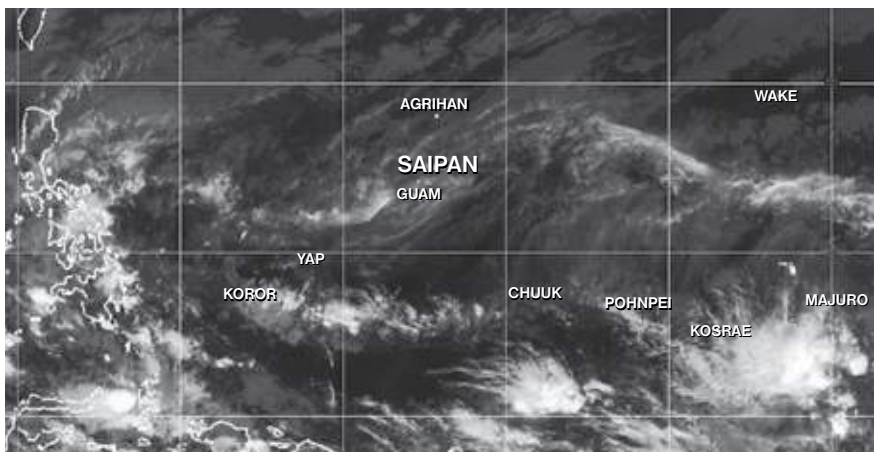
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲89	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲90	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼69
London	Sunny	▲45	▼34
Los Angeles	Rain	▲62	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲65	▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼35
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼37
Paris	Cloudy	▲42	▼31
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼33
Rome	Sunny	▲52	▼42
Salem	Showers	▲50	▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲56	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲41	▼30
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼33
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak frontal boundary cuts westward through the northern portion of the discussion area from 25N153E through Iwo To island at 24N141E to beyond 130E at 24N. Cloudiness and rain are present along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A shear line enters the discussion area at 25N160E and extends west-southwestward through just south of Minami Tori Shima at 23N154E to beyond 130E at 17N. Clouds are patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Another shear line stretches westward from 25N177E to north of Wake Island at 22N166E then turns southwestward through Rota at 14N145E to northeast of Yap at 12N140E and continues westward to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 200 miles northwest of this feature. A near-equatorial trough reaches east-southeastward from south of Mindanao through 3N130E to end at EQ152E. Trade-wind convergence north of the trough axis is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Koror but south of Yap and Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 7N134E to 6N140E to 5N146E to 6N150E. Similar conditions are also evident along the trough axis south of a line from 5N130E to 2N136E and between the equator and 3N from 151E to 157E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls but south of Kosrae and Majuro or south of a line from 3N162E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:29 AM	8:29 PM
Tuesday	9:04 AM	9:15 PM
Wednesday	9:38 AM	10:01 PM
Thursday	10:12 AM	10:48 PM
Friday	10:49 AM	11:38 PM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2,3,4,5,6,7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3,6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:0pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4,6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Pacific

Civil unions may get quick vote at Hawaii Capitol

HONOLULU (AP)—When Hawaii legislators reconvene on Wednesday, all eyes will be focused on legislation that would allow same-sex couples to form civil unions in the state

The measure would grant gay couples the rights and benefits the state provides to married couples and is among a handful of similar proposals that could pop up in several other U.S. states.

At the same time, a federal judge in San Francisco is considering the constitutionality of California's same-sex marriage ban.

"This bill has already been voted on, so there isn't as much convincing to do anymore," said Alan Spector of Equality Hawaii, a leading supporter of the bill. "I think (legislators) get the substance of the bill and the need for the bill."

Last year, the proposal easily won preliminary passage in the Legislature, but stalled in May after opponents lobbied and held a state Capitol rally attended by several thousand protesters.

Opponents, noting that this is an election year, cast doubt on claims that passage is at hand. Critics, including the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu and scores of evangelical Protestant churches, hope another rally, this one planned for Sunday, will be large enough to convince wavering lawmakers to kill the measure.

"It's up to the people who oppose civil unions to remind the legislators that they work for the people," said Garret Hashimoto, chairman of the Hawaii Christian Coalition. "There's no ifs, ands or buts that the majority of the people in Hawaii oppose civil unions and gay marriage."

No independent polls or surveys have been conducted on the issue, so it's difficult to measure public sentiment. The last time voters directly weighed in on a related issue was in 1998 when 70 percent approved a constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to reserve marriage for opposite sex couples.

Elsewhere, at least one other state, New Mexico, appears poised to seriously consider a civil union measure. Bills in Illinois and Minnesota also may surface. Colorado, Wisconsin, Maryland and Maine have limited laws allowing same-gender civil unions. Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut permit same-sex marriage.

In Hawaii, the measure would expand the state's existing reciprocal beneficiaries law by granting to unmarried same- and opposite-gender couples all of the rights and benefits the state provides to married couples. It is similar to broad civil union or domestic partnership laws in California, the District of Columbia, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and New Jersey.

The Hawaii legislation would have no impact on federal tax and other benefits that only apply to married opposite-sex couples. According to 2000 census records, more than 1,200 male couples, 1,100 female couples and 21,100 mixed couples lived together in Hawaii.

Supporters voice guarded confidence that the bill, pending in the Senate since May, still enjoys majority support in both chambers.

But House Speaker Calvin Say, a Democrat, suggested the bill could stall in the House if the Senate vote turns out to be slim. "If the bill limps over," he said, "you know we don't have the two-thirds, so why go through the exercise if the governor is going to veto?"

Understaffing likely lead to PNG prison escape

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier)—Bomana jail, the country's biggest prison, is in a mess.

The jail is underfinanced and understaffed. All facilities there are run down including the maximum security compound, where dangerous criminals are kept.

The jail has more than 600 inmates who were being supervised by 135 warders, down by 73 men who are on leave.

Those working there told the Post Courier yesterday that morale was very low and nearly half of them were nearing retirement age and their department was not recruiting any more to ease the problem.

So it is no wonder that prisoners like the high-profile robbery suspect William Nanua Kapris and his cellmates easily got out from the maximum security compound – previously considered the most secure and inaccessible by outsiders.

There are two boom gates at the road leading to the premier jail that are supposed to be manned on a 24-hour basis with fully armed guards but when the Post-Courier visited the jail yesterday there were no guards stationed there at the main gate as well as the gate to the maximum security compound.

Post Courier was told that these days, no guards are posted because of the shortage in manpower and that their Department does not have the money to allow officers to work overtime.

The maximum security compound is also supposed to have 12 guards work 24 hours a day shift with four stationed on the towers while the rest were to be inside but at the time the escape occurred there were no guards on the towers and only two were on duty that morning.

The only vehicle bought to serve the maximum security compound was withdrawn to CIS headquarters and when the escape occurred, the warders could not chase the escapees.

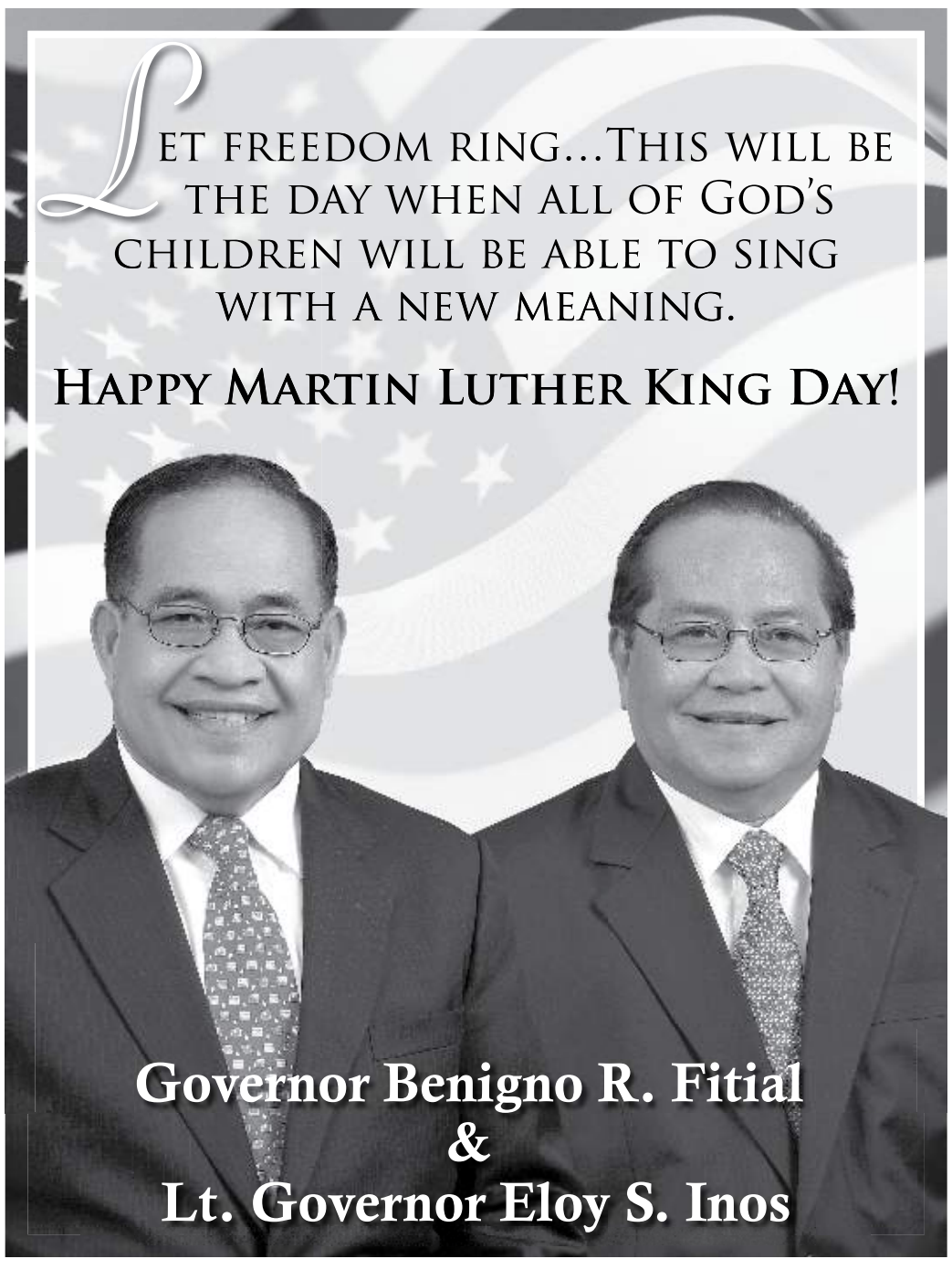
CIS Commissioner Richard Sikani on Tuesday admitted that there was a major problem with the department itself in that more than 50percent of his officers throughout the country are nearing their retirement age and that despite his submission for the Government to give him a bigger slice of the budget for retirement and new recruitment, his request was knocked back. The department cannot do much but work around what the Government has allocated to them.

"In my time in the late 1980s and early 90s the maximum security compound and its surrounding area is a no-go zone for any unauthorized persons but nowadays, because there is a shortage of manpower, these regulations are not being policed," he said.

But he admitted that despite all these problems faced by the department, there was a security breach committed by his men when they allowed a woman posing as a lawyer to get into the maximum security compound.

"Only my office and my deputy can give approval for visitors whether lawyers or doctors to go in to the compound. All requests to visit any maximum security prisoner are to be in writing and addressed to my office and these procedures were not followed," Mr. Sikani said.

An investigation will determine how the people who helped Kapris were able to get into the maximum security compound but for the time being, it would be safe to assume that these people just drove straight to the compound and held up the guards, who did not suspect anyone trying to free Kapris.


LET FREEDOM RING...THIS WILL BE THE DAY WHEN ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO SING WITH A NEW MEANING.
HAPPY MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY!
Governor Benigno R. Fitial
&
Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-012

The Office of the Executive Director! Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of **SAIPAN WELL ISOLATION PROJECT**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A non-refundable payment of **$350.00** is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **January 11, 2010** at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid Conference for this project is scheduled at **9:00 a.m.**, on **January 15, 2010**, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-10-012 Construction of Saipan Well Isolation Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building P.O . Box 501220, Saipan! MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM local time (CST), Wednesday, January 27, 2010**, at which time they will be publicly open and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI1s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI1s Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the **Davis Bacon Act.**

This project is funded though a grant from the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)** under the **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

This project involves the installation of transmission lines to connect direct feed wells from the different villages into water tank storages to meet all federal safe water standards and requirements.

The proposed project will also include the construction of new transmission lines to connect 3 new wells in the Kagman area. For Kagman well field, the work will include control panel enclosure buildings, controls, perimeter security fencing, exterior perimeter slabs, installation of pumps, construction of properly designed wellheads and connecting the wells in to the existing transmission line.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All technical inquiries should be directed to Capt. Robert Lorenz at telephone number (670) 235-7025 Ext. 148 or Mr. Larry T. Manacop at telephone number (670) 235-7025 Ext. 150 and inquiries regarding procurement should be directed to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Procurement & Supply Manager at (670) 235-7025 Ext. 134.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Business

Tobacco's plea—no big US payments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tobacco industry lawyers met secretly with Solicitor General Elena Kagan in an effort to avoid the government's last-ditch attempt to extract billions from companies that illegally concealed the dangers of cigarette smoking, The Associated Press has learned.

Four cigarette makers that control nearly 90 percent of U.S. retail cigarette sales have until Feb. 19 to persuade the government not to go to the Supreme Court and ask the justices to step into a landmark 10-year-old racketeering lawsuit.

In 2006, a judge ruled that the industry concealed the dangers of smoking for decades. Despite that finding, lower courts have said the government is not entitled to collect $280 billion in past profits or $14 billion for a national campaign to curb smoking.

As part of any effort to convince the government that it should skip a trip to the Supreme Court, the tobacco companies may have to drop plans to ask the justices to overturn the ruling that the industry engaged in racketeering.

On behalf of the industry, Washington lawyers Michael Carvin and Miguel Estrada made their pitch against seeking Supreme Court review in a mid-December meeting at the Justice Department with Kagan, according to two Washington attorneys outside the government who are familiar with the meeting in her office.

In the meeting, Carvin and Estrada left the impression the industry might be willing to end plans to seek a high court appeal of its own, if the Justice Department would do the same, said the Washington attorneys, who spoke on condition of anonymity so that they could discuss the private meeting with Kagan.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-038

A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11,2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, RFP10-GOV-038".** One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Alibaba says Yahoo 'reckless' on Google stance

BEIJING (AP)—China's e-commerce giant Alibaba turned on major shareholder Yahoo Inc. on Saturday, calling the American company's support of Google in its standoff with China "reckless."

Google has promised to stop censoring its search results in China, threatening to pull out of the country altogether if it can't operate an unfiltered search engine. Yahoo has said it was "aligned" with Google's position, though it's not clear what that means.

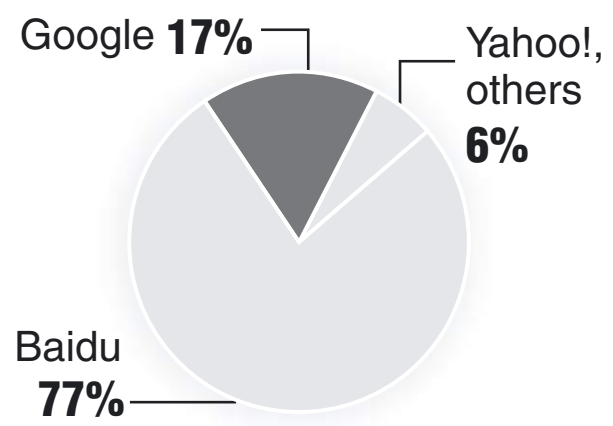
"Alibaba Group has communicated to Yahoo! that Yahoo's statement that it is 'aligned' with the position Google took last week was reckless given the lack of facts in evidence," Alibaba spokesman John Spelich said Saturday. "Alibaba doesn't share this view."

Yahoo closed its own offices in China several years ago when it sold much of its business there to the Alibaba Group. Yahoo retains a 39 percent stake in Alibaba that represents one of Yahoo's most valuable assets.

Yahoo spokeswoman Nina Blackwell has declined to say whether the company would consider selling its holdings.

Google in China

After three years, Google may halt its operations in China over a cyber attack and censorship. Estimated search engine market share in China, as of third quarter 2009:



Source: Fortune
Graphic: Pat Carr

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Obama confident bank tax plan will pass Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama expressed confidence Saturday that lawmakers would approve his proposed tax on banks to recover bailout money, despite opposition from Republicans and the financial industry.

"Like clockwork, the banks and politicians who curry their favor are already trying to stop this fee from going into effect," he said, using his weekly radio and Internet addresses to promote the plan he announced this past week.

"The very same firms reaping billions of dollars in profits, and reportedly handing out more money in bonuses and compensation than ever before in history, are now pleading poverty. It's a sight to see."

If banks can afford to pay out all those bonuses, he said, then they can repay taxpayers, too.

"We're not going to let Wall Street take the money and run. We're going to pass this fee into law," he said.

Congress must approve the tax and that's not assured, given the immediate opposition from Republicans. Democrats also could lose their 60-vote majority in the Senate, with Democrat Martha Coakley in an unexpectedly close race against Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts to fill the seat held for decades by the late Democrat Edward M. Kennedy.

Brown opposes Obama's bank tax. Obama planned to campaign in the state on Sunday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Denver Post owner plans prepackaged Ch. 11 filing

DENVER (AP)—The holding company for MediaNews Group Inc. newspapers, including *The Denver Post* and San Jose Mercury News, says it plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Affiliated Media Inc. said Friday it would file a "prepackaged" plan already approved by lenders, which should allow it to emerge from bankruptcy more quickly. It would be at least the 13th bankruptcy filing by a U.S. newspaper publisher in the past 13 months. The owners of dozens of newspapers have been pushed into bankruptcy protection as the recession and competition from the Internet have sapped advertising revenue.

Taiwan to allow Chinese investment in bourse

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan will allow China's institutional investors to invest up to $500 million in the island's stock market, the government said Saturday, in its latest step to relax control on trade and investment with its rival. Taiwan had for decades barred Chinese capital, fearing it could give Beijing control of the local economy, but opened selected industries to Chinese investment for the first time last year. Starting Monday, Chinese institutional investors can buy shares in Taiwan's stock market, with purchases by any single investor limited to $80 million, the Financial Supervisory Commission said.

Treasury chief: UK rules out US-style bank tax

LONDON (AP)—Britain will not copy President Barack Obama's tax on banks that were bailed out by the taxpayer, Treasury chief Alistair Darling said in an interview published Saturday. Obama is proposing a tax of 0.15 percent on the liabilities of large financial institutions in a bid to recoup at least $90 billion spent rescuing the sector from collapse. Darling told The Scotsman newspaper that Britain was not considering a similar plan.

"No, we are not," he was quoted as saying. "The Americans are doing something different."

Nation

Thousands protest sheriff's immigration efforts

PHOENIX (AP)—Ten thousand immigrant rights advocates marched in front of a county jail in Phoenix Saturday in a protest that was aimed at Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's immigration efforts and was marked by a clash between a small group of protesters and police officers.

Organizers say the protest was meant to show officials in Washington that Arpaio shouldn't handle immigration enforcement, and that Congress and the Obama administration need to come up with a way for immigrant workers to come to the country legally.

The three-mile walk that started in a west Phoenix park ended by afternoon at the Durango Jail Complex, a collection of five jails, where officials played music, including a record by singer Linda Ronstadt, to drown out noise made by protesters. Ronstadt took part in Saturday's protest.

Protesters chanted "Joe must go" as they approached the jail complex. One person carried a sign that said "We are human" and bore a picture of a lawman with a wolf's face. A family of five wore T-shirts saying "Who would Jesus deport?"

For his part, Arpaio said he wasn't bothered by the protesters and that they should be directing their frustrations at Congress because it has the power to change America's immigration laws.

"They are zeroing in on the wrong guy," Arpaio said. "They ought to be zeroing in on the president."

The demonstration was peaceful until police say protesters near the end of the procession started throwing water bottles at officers. Phoenix Police Lt. Pat Hofmann said officers used pepper spray as they tried to separate protesters from an officer who was trying to take away the bottles.

People poured water onto the faces of several protesters whose eyes were irritated by the pepper spray.

AP

Jazmin Pedroza, left, Maria Pedroza, middle front, and Iris Orona, right, yell while marching down 35th Avenue in protest against Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 in Phoenix.

NYC crews sent to Haiti draw on 9/11 experience

NEW YORK (AP)—When the twin towers came down on Sept. 11, 2001, deputy police inspector Robert Lukach was there, working on the pile, digging through the rubble for survivors.

Joe Downey, a New York City fire chief, was there too. He also was in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and in Haiti after Hurricane Gustav.

Now, the men are leading a team of 80 specialists on a search-and-rescue mission through the wrecked mass of concrete and metal in Haiti's earthquake-ravaged capital, using technology that has been improved since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The squad touched down in Port-au-Prince on Saturday after a two-day wait for clearance to land at the destroyed city's overloaded airport.

By early evening, 16 members of the team were working to rescue five people trapped on the bottom floor of a three-story grocery store that collapsed during the earthquake, police spokesman Paul J. Browne said.

They were trying to cut through concrete blocks to reach the survivors, who told rescuers they had been living on food and water in the store, Browne said.

Before leaving, Lukach, who serves in the New York Police Department's elite Emergency Services Unit, said he was more optimistic about finding survivors in Haiti than he was at ground zero.

For health care, a frantic ride in the final days

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like a roller-coaster ride on its last twisting turns, President Barack Obama's campaign to remake health care is barreling into final days of breathless suspense and headlong momentum.

Democrats, led by Obama himself, are deploying this weekend to salvage an unpredictable Senate race in Massachusetts, while senior White House and congressional staffers in Washington hurry to finish work on cost and coverage options at the heart of the sweeping legislation.

A Republican victory in the race to fill the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's seat would deprive Democrats of the 60-vote majority needed to pass the bill in the Senate. Obama and Democratic congressional leaders would have a political window of perhaps days only to try to ram the bill through—at considerable risk of incurring public wrath.

Democrats put on a bold public face Friday, while working behind the scenes with grim determination.

Negotiators are "pretty close," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said at the end of a week of marathon negotiations to reconcile House- and Senate-passed versions.

A White House statement said there are "no final agreements and no overall package." But no further meetings were scheduled, and Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., the third-ranking House Democrat, said, "Something should be going to CBO very soon," indicating that aides were drafting the decisions made around the table in the White House Cabinet Room. The Congressional Budget Office is the official arbiter of the cost and extent of coverage that any legislation would provide.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man of Haitian descent arrested in breach at JFK

NEW YORK (AP)—Police say a man of Haitian descent who left the island nation after the devastating earthquake caused a security breach at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport by opening a restricted door. Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman Steve Coleman says 57-year-old Jules Paul Bouloute was arrested Saturday on a charge of criminal trespass. He says Bouloute lives in Brooklyn but was in Haiti during Tuesday's earthquake. The man took a flight from the Dominican Republic to Orlando, Fla., before connecting on a flight to New York.

Survivors of Hudson crash toast to anniversary

NEW YORK (AP)—They looked like they were posing for an eclectic class picture: dozens of smiling faces, everyone carefully lined up. As cameras clicked, the survivors of US Airways Flight 1549 cheered and laughed loudly enough to remind everyone that they had made it. From the plane's youngest passenger to the frail woman edging along carefully with the help of a walker, many of the 155 survivors gathered Friday to mark the anniversary of their harrowing water landing with a return to the place their crippled jet hit the Hudson River. Crying, cheering and embracing, they raised a toast to life at 3:31 p.m., the moment of impact, on one of the ferries that plucked them shivering from the water just minutes after they splashed down.

Police: Ky. census worker had told of suicide plan

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—An eastern Kentucky census worker found naked, bound and hanging from a tree had told a friend he intended to kill himself and that he had chosen the time, place and method to do it, police records show. Those records about the death of Bill Sparkman were released Friday to The Associated Press by the Kentucky State Police. Sparkman, 51, was found strangled with a rope around his neck near a rural cemetery in September with the word "fed" scrawled on his chest. It triggered a state and federal investigation that ultimately determined he had committed suicide. The records show that Sparkman's friend, Lowell Adams, who had worked for Sparkman as a part-time security guard since 2007, told investigators that the federal employee wanted his suicide to look like a murder.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-039

A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11, 2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, RFP10-GOV-039"**. One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Asia

NKorea's Kim calls for stronger army amid tension

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il said his country must bolster its armed forces, state media reported Sunday, two days after his regime warned it was prepared to launch a war against South Korea if necessary.

Kim's all-powerful National Defense Commission had threatened Friday to initiate a sacred "retaliatory battle" against the South in anger over its reported contingency plan to cope with potential unrest in the communist country. The commission also warned it could break off all dialogue and negotiations with the South.

On Sunday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim had inspected a joint army, navy and air force drill that demonstrated the country's "merciless striking power" against anyone trying to infringe on its territory.

Kim expressed his satisfaction with the drill and assigned the military tasks to develop it into "the invincible revolutionary armed forces," according to the KCNA report.

The report did not say when or where the joint drill took place.

Kim routinely visits military units and inspects their training to bolster his "songun," or "military-first," policy that rewards the 1.2 million-member armed forces—the backbone of his authoritarian rule of the country's 24 million people. He often calls for a stronger military during the visits.

The report of his latest inspection, however, came two days after his defense commission issued a rare statement strongly protesting the South's alleged contingency plan, which it says is aimed at toppling Kim's regime.

The commission said "a sacred nationwide retaliatory battle to blow up the stronghold of the South Korean authorities," including the presidential office, would begin once the plan was completed and put into practice. It also said the country would push for Seoul's expulsion in any negotiations on peace on the Korean peninsula if the South didn't apologize for the plan.

South Korea responded by expressing regret over the North's threat, which it said was driven by unconfirmed media reports.

South Korea has reportedly drawn up a military operations plan with the United States to cope with possible emergencies in North Korea. South Korea's Defense Ministry has consistently declined to comment about the existence of such a plan.

North Korea occasionally issues statements that include threats to destroy South Korea. Authorities in Seoul monitor them carefully though usually take them in stride.

Haiti aid a telling test of China-Taiwan relations

BEIJING (AP)—One of the world's trickiest relationships is being tested in devastated Haiti, where China and Taiwan are rushing aid to one of Taipei's few remaining diplomatic allies. Taiwan even announced that its president would personally deliver earthquake aid later this month.

Since the two sides split amid civil war six decades ago, China has used aid to try to persuade countries to cut relations with Taiwan and weaken the self-governing island's claim to independence. Meanwhile, Taiwan has used financial support to try to keep the few small, mostly impoverished nations that recognize it.

But while the aid to Haiti comes with large Chinese flags on display, analysts say it has no apparent strings attached, thanks to improved relations between the two sides and China's settling into its role of global power and the responsibilities that come with it.

"What's really interesting here is that China apparently is providing Haiti with assistance without making any demands regarding Haiti's relationship with Taiwan," said Taiwan scholar Shelley Rigger of North Carolina's Davidson College.

A cargo plane left Beijing on Saturday carrying $2 million of China's promised $4.2 million aid package for the quake-hit island, with which it has no diplomatic ties.

State-run Chinese media has devoted pages of coverage to the quake, and China Central Television reported Friday that the Chinese rescue team was the only one working overnight to look for those trapped in the rubble.

Instead of tussling with Taiwan, a newly confident China probably sees the quake as a chance to project its "soft power" to a wider audience, said China expert Steve Tsang of Oxford University. "From Beijing's perspective, it is desirable not to be overshadowed by Taiwan's rescue efforts and relatively easy and inexpensive to play a positive humanitarian role in the, as it were, backyard of the U.S.A."

OVERNIGHT FIRE
Residents sift through the debris following an overnight fire that razed through a squatters' community of Baseco near a Manila port Sunday Jan. 17, 2010, in the Philippines. Authorities reported one person was killed and about 4,000 people were rendered homeless in an overnight fire that gutted about 500 homes.
AP

Rum bottle thrown at Malaysia mosque amid tension

KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Vandals threw a rum bottle at a mosque in the first attack on a Muslim house of worship after almost a dozen similar assaults on churches in Malaysia the past week, police said Saturday.

Police have dismissed the attacks as vandalism, but they have caused disquiet in multiracial Malaysia and raised fears of more widespread religious tensions.

One Sikh temple and 11 churches have been hit—most of them with molotov cocktails—since Jan. 8. One church was partially gutted, though the others sustained only minor damages. No arrests have been made.

The unrest follows a Dec. 31 court ruling that allowed non-Muslims to use the word "Allah" to refer to God. The verdict upset Muslims who make up 60 percent of Malaysia's 28 million people. The government has argued allowing Christians to use the word will confuse Muslims and entice them to convert.

The bottle was thrown at a mosque in eastern Sarawak state late Friday and found smashed near an outer wall inside the compound, said local police chief Abu Bakar Mokhtar. He said they didn't know if it contained any alcohol when vandals threw it. Most Muslims consider alcohol illegal.

Abu Bakar blamed "naughty boys" for the incident.

In the latest church attack late Friday, vandals smashed a window of a church in southern Negeri Sembilan state, said Saiful Azly Kamaruddin, a district police chief.

He said the attack also appeared to be vandalism, and added police have stepped up patrols and deployed more plainclothes officials in the area.

Afghan lawmakers reject Cabinet nominees

KABUL (AP)—Afghanistan's parliament has rejected more than half of President Hamid Karzai's second list of Cabinet nominees—including two of three women—dealing him a fresh political blow as his government struggles to face the growing Taliban threat.

The move complicates U.S.-backed efforts to build a government capable of combating corruption and pursuing reforms considered key to defeating the Taliban and its allies as the U.S. and its international partners send 37,000 reinforcements to intensify the war.

Washington and its allies have been pressing Karzai to get his second-term administration in place ahead of a Jan. 28 international conference on Afghanistan to be held in London. The conference is aimed at streamlining efforts to bolster the Afghan government.

But the 224 lawmakers present Saturday approved only seven of 17 nominees, including Karzai's longtime national security adviser Zalmay Rasoul as foreign minister. The lawmakers also confirmed a new justice minister and a woman as minister of Work and Social Affairs/Martyred and Disabled.

Two weeks ago, parliament rejected 70 percent of Karzai's first Cabinet picks, forcing him to present a second list. The rejections leave Karzai without confirmed leaders for 11 of the 25 Cabinet posts.

Continued political turmoil has distracted Karzai, even as the insurgency grows more virulent. An American and a Canadian service member were killed Saturday in separate attacks, NATO and Canadian officials said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Watchdog calls Afghan energy effort disappointing

KABUL (AP)—The U.S. has spent $732 million since 2002 to more than double Afghanistan's energy capacity, but 85 percent of urban households remain without electricity, a watchdog said in a report released Saturday. Retired Marine Gen. Arnold Fields, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, said in the report that results have been "disappointing" and that current projects face delays and rising costs because of deteriorating security and poor oversight by U.S. agencies. The report also said the Afghan government lacks a clear plan for how to continue developing its energy sector, and that it is unable to collect enough utility fees from users to maintain the infrastructure that has been built so far.

Bali victim's father questions Washington trial

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian lawyer whose son was killed in the 2002 Bali bombing said on Saturday that a trial in Washington of alleged terrorist Riduan Isamuddin could jeopardize chances of convicting him over the nightclub attacks that killed 202. Brian Deegan, a former magistrate whose 21-year-old son Josh was among 88 Australians killed in the attack, said Isamuddin, Osama bin Laden's alleged lieutenant better known as Hambali, should be tried in Indonesia where the crime was committed. The Obama administration is conducting an intense security review as part of a plan that could bring the notorious Guantanamo Bay inmate and two associates to Washington for trial, officials said.

Rugged North Waziristan harbors US enemies

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—They rumble through the narrow snow-clogged mountain passes in black pickup trucks. In the back, eight to ten men armed with Kalashnikov rifles and rocket-propelled grenades huddle together against the cold. These Islamic militants are on their way to Afghanistan to kill Americans and their allies. Their launching point: Pakistan's North Waziristan district- a lawless border area that has become the nerve center of the insurgency in nearby Afghanistan. North Waziristan is a place where al-Qaida and its Afghan and Pakistani allies can train fighters, store explosives and rest from the strain of war. The United States is pressuring Pakistan to launch military operations in North Waziristan, and CIA-operated unmanned aircraft are unleashing missiles with increasing frequency at suspected militant leaders holed up there.

World

Hunger and hope, thirst and frenzy grip Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Precious water, food and early glimmers of hope began reaching parched and hungry earthquake survivors Saturday on the streets of this shattered city, where despair at times turned into a frenzy among the ruins.

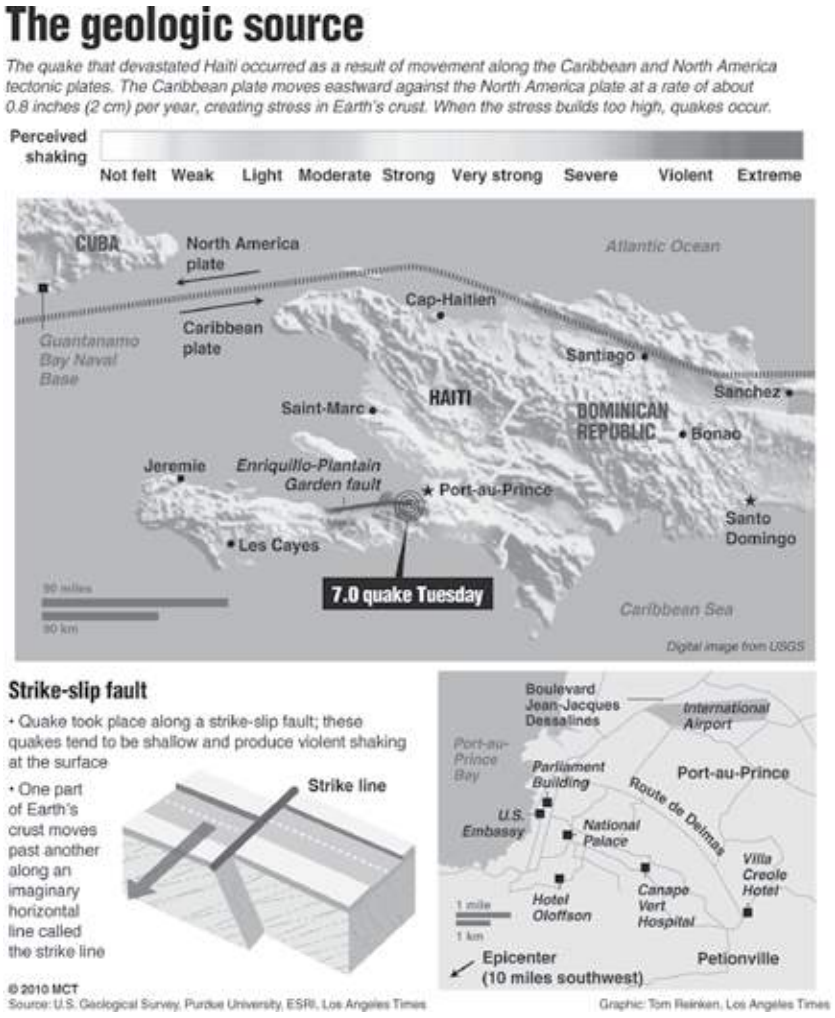
"People are so desperate for food that they are going crazy," said accountant Henry Ounche, in a crowd of hundreds who fought one another as U.S. military helicopters clattered overhead carrying aid.

When other Navy choppers dropped rations and Gatorade into a soccer stadium thronged with refugees, 200 youths began brawling, throwing stones, to get at the supplies.

■ ■ ■

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met Saturday with Haitian President Rene Preval and promised that U.S. quake relief efforts would be closely coordinated with local officials.

Clinton's remarks appeared designed to counter any notion of a too-intrusive American involvement in the aftermath of the quake, while also assuring Haitians the humanitarian mission would continue as long as it's needed.


The geologic source
The quake that devastated Haiti occurred as a result of movement along the Caribbean and North America tectonic plates. The Caribbean plate moves eastward against the North America plate at a rate of about 0.8 inches (2 cm) per year, creating stress in Earth's crust. When the stress builds too high, quakes occur.
Perceived shaking
Not felt Weak Light Moderate Strong Very strong Severe Violent Extreme
CUBA
North America plate
Caribbean plate
Atlantic Ocean
Cap-Haitien
Guantanamo Bay Naval Base
Santiago
Sanchez
Saint-Marc
HAITI
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Bonao
Jeremie
Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault
Port-au-Prince
Santo Domingo
Les Cayes
7.0 quake Tuesday
Caribbean Sea
Digital image from USGS
Strike-slip fault
• Quake took place along a strike-slip fault; these quakes tend to be shallow and produce violent shaking at the surface
• One part of Earth's crust moves past another along an imaginary horizontal line called the strike line
Strike line
Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines
International Airport
Port-au-Prince Bay
Parliament Building
Port-au-Prince
Route de Delmas
U.S. Embassy
National Palace
Villa Creole Hotel
Hotel Oloffson
Canape Vert Hospital
Petionville
Epicenter (10 miles southwest)
© 2010 MCT
Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Purdue University, ESRI, Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Tom Reinken, Los Angeles Times

"We are here at the invitation of your government to help you," she said at a news conference at the Port-au-Prince airport. "As President Obama has said, we will be here today, tomorrow and for the time ahead. And speaking personally, I know of the great resilience and strength of the Haitian people. You have been severely tested. But I believe that Haiti can come back even stronger and better in the future."

■ ■ ■

Across the hilly, steamy city, where people choked on the stench of death, hope faded by the hour for finding many more victims alive in the rubble, four days after Tuesday's catastrophic earthquake.

Still, here and there, the murmur of buried victims spurred rescue crews on, even as aftershocks threatened to finish off crumbling buildings.

"No one's alive in there," a woman sobbed outside the wrecked Montana Hotel. But hope wouldn't die. "We can hear a survivor," search crew chief Alexander Luque of Namibia later reported. His men dug on. Elsewhere, an American team pulled a woman alive from a collapsed university building where she had been trapped for 97 hours.

Quake workers in Haiti rescue living, mourn dead

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—All rescuers saw of Saint-Helene Jean-Louis when they arrived at the collapsed University of Port-au-Prince building were the top of her head and her left hand.

It had been four days since a 7.0-magnitude earthquake leveled the building, one of hundreds destroyed in the most powerful natural disaster to hit the impoverished Caribbean nation in more than 200 years—but the 29-year-old student was still breathing inside a stairwell of the former four-story structure. She was surrounded by eight decaying bodies, one entwined with her own.

Rescuers from the Fairfax County, Virginia, Urban Search and Rescue team tore away through a few more layers, digging down and sideways to free her upper body. She was able to sip a little water.

Nearly 30 hours later, working in two shifts, they pulled Jean-Louis out of the building—still alive. She was able to say her name before being whisked away to an Israeli field hospital.

"To me, she's the hero of the group," said Fairfax County firefighter Richard McKinney. "She had to have spent that first night by herself."

Other foreign and national rescue teams worked feverishly to get to survivors in the capital of Port-au-Prince. Late Saturday, American rescuers were trying to free three people trapped alive in the rubble of a suburban supermarket. They managed to shout back and forth with the survivors, and get them water, but had just started attempting to reach them.

Iraq reclaims a Jewish history it once shunned

BAGHDAD (AP)—It was seized from Jewish families and wound up soaking in sewage water in the basement of a secret police building. Rescued from the chaos that engulfed Baghdad as Saddam Hussein was toppled, it now sits in safekeeping in an office near Washington, D.C.

Like this country's once great Jewish community, the Iraqi Jewish Archive of books, manuscripts, records and other materials has gone through turbulent times. Now another twist may be in store: Iraq wants it back.

Iraqi officials say they will go to the U.S., possibly next month, to assess the materials found by U.S. troops and plan for their return after an absence of nearly seven years.

Some Jewish authorities are skeptical, arguing that since most estimates put the number of Jews in Iraq at less than 10, the archive no longer belongs here. But to Saad Eskander, the director of the Iraq National Library and Archives, it is part of a larger effort to rescue the cultural history Iraq lost during the invasion, and to put Iraqis on a tentative path to coming to grips with their past.

"Iraqis must know that we are a diverse people, with different traditions, different religions, and we need to accept this diversity ... To show it to our people that Baghdad was always multiethnic," said Eskander.

The archive was found in May 2003, when U.S. troops looking for weapons of mass destruction got a tip to check out the basement of a building of the Mukhabarat - Saddam's secret police. Passing a 2,000-pound unexploded bomb on their way into the building, they found a flooded basement.

"It was really quite disgusting, to be honest, because it was about chest-deep sewage water," said Richard Gonzales, the Army officer who led the team and has since retired.

The troops found no WMD, but it was worth the trip. Books, photos and papers floated in the murky water. And not just any books, but Hebrew-language books, in a country that had been at war with Israel since 1948 and had once accused Jews of espionage and after a show trial hanged nine of them in a public square.

Pope: End of Nazism made me happy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI, on the eve of his controversy-generating visit to a Rome synagogue, said Saturday that the end of Nazi tyranny in his German homeland made him happy and allowed him to resume studies for the priesthood.

His visit to Rome's main synagogue scheduled for Sunday has divided Jewish groups because of Benedict's praise of wartime pontiff Pius XII.

Some Jewish leaders were angered by Benedict's recent move to advance Pius down the path toward possible sainthood. Critics contend that Pius didn't speak out enough to save Jews during the Holocaust, but the Vatican insists that he used quiet diplomacy to save lives.

On Saturday, Benedict reminisced about his youth in Germany with a group of Germans from Freising, the city where he was ordained in 1951 and where he had studied in a seminary a few years earlier after the institution reopened in February 1946, a few months after the war ended.

"We were able to resume (studies) and it was a significant moment in our lives," Benedict said, recalling how he and fellow seminarians felt about returning to the seminary.

In those immediate postwar days, seminary furnishings were "spartan," he recalled in off-the-cuff remarks to a delegation of Freising citizens who conferred honorary citizenship. "But we were happy, not only because we had escaped the war's misery and dangers and Nazi dominion, but because were free" and preparing once more for the priesthood, Benedict said.

The seminarians knew that Christ was "stronger than tyranny, than the strength of its ideology and of its mechanisms of oppression," the pope said.

Benedict XVI

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran-bound plane slides off runway in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP)—An Iran Air-owned Airbus bound for Tehran slid off a Stockholm runway on Saturday, but no one was hurt, a Swedish airport official said. Some 172 people, including 23 crew members, were on board the Airbus 300-600 when it swerved off the runway and glided some 130 yards (100 meters) into the snow. Everyone was safely evacuated, Arlanda airport spokesman Anders Bredfall said. One of the airport's three runways was closed as officials launched an investigation into the accident. "Everyone has been safely evacuated and will be flown tomorrow instead," Bredfall said. Bredfall said the cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but that it is possible that there were problems with one of the plane's two engines, possibly causing it to swerve. "But the investigation has to show what really caused it," he said.

African diplomats arrive to cement Guinea deal

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—African diplomats descended on Burkina Faso on Saturday to ensure a deal is sealed calling for Guinea's injured leader to step down and for his country to hold democratic elections within six months. Arriving in Ouagadougou, Liberian President Ellen Sirleaf hailed the accord and said that she felt compelled to travel there because instability in Guinea could threaten the entire region. She joined a delegation from ECOWAS, a regional bloc representing 15 West African nations, whose leaders also rushed to Ouagadougou following the signing Friday of the landmark accord there.

Wanted drug suspect captured in Venezuela

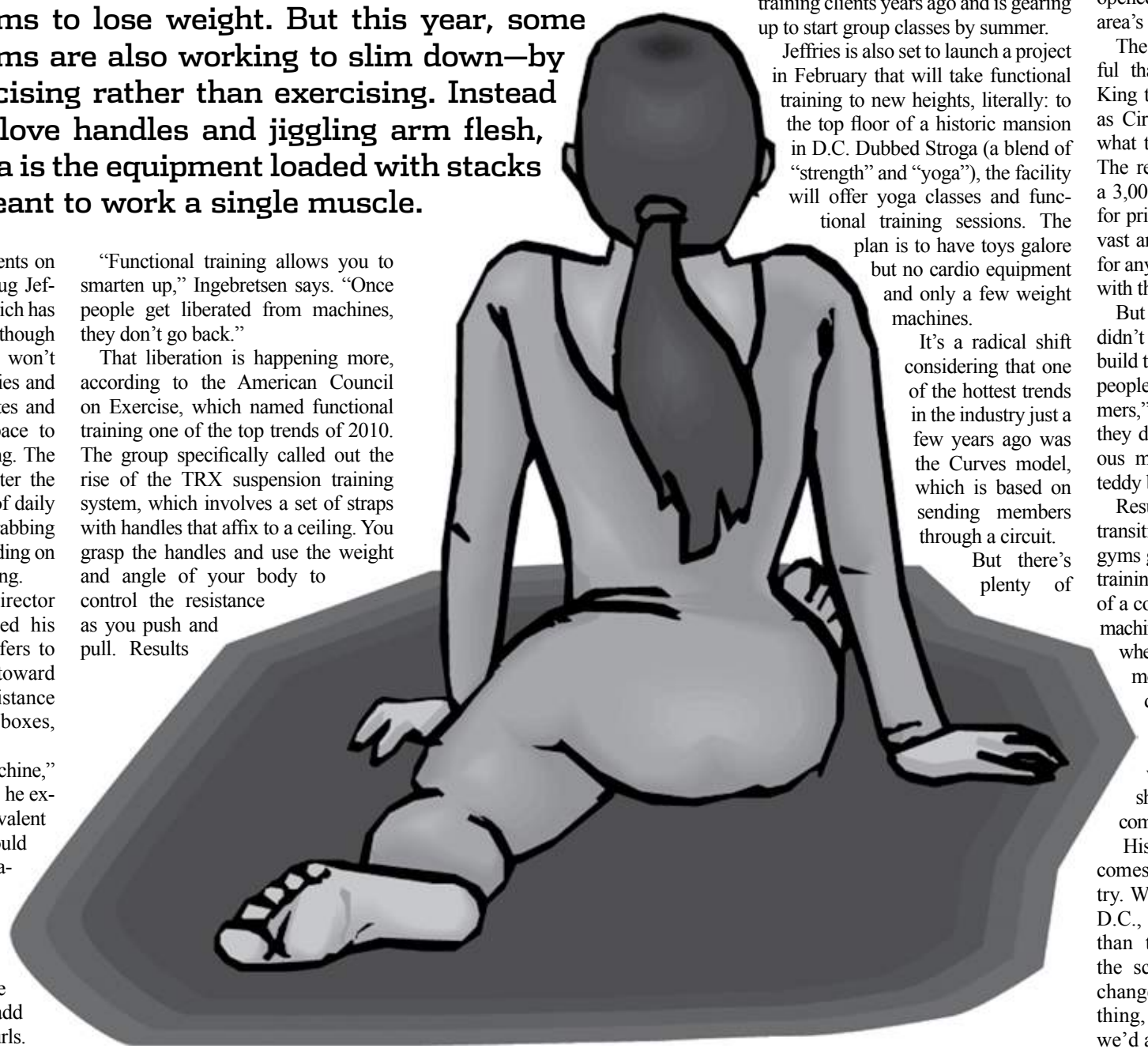
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan authorities on Saturday said they have captured a prominent Colombian drug trafficker wanted by the United States. U.S. authorities had offered a reward of up to $5 million for information leading to the arrest of Salomon Camacho Mora. Venezuelan intelligence and counter-drug agents captured the 65-year-old Colombian during the past week in the city of Valencia, the state-run Bolivarian News Agency reported. It was not immediately clear what steps led up to the arrest. The U.S. State Department says on its Web site that Camacho began trafficking cocaine in the 1980s with Colombia's Medellin cartel, and later formed partnerships with other traffickers.

Health & Fitness

Gym owners want to move exercisers out of the machine age

By VICKY HALLETT
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

As they do every January, people are cramming into gyms to lose weight. But this year, some gyms are also working to slim down—by excising rather than exercising. Instead of love handles and jiggling arm flesh, their problem area is the equipment loaded with stacks of hefty plates meant to work a single muscle.



"The day of isolated movements on machines is over," predicts Doug Jeffries, owner of Results Gym, which has four locations in Washington. Although the traditional 15-piece circuit won't vanish at any of his clubs, Jeffries and his team are removing duplicates and dedicating the newly open space to what is called functional training. The idea is to place front and center the exercises that mimic the tasks of daily life, such as squatting and grabbing something off the floor and standing on an unstable surface without falling.

Ed Ingebretsen, Results' director of training, has always steered his clients away from what he refers to as "rehab equipment" and toward the toys: medicine balls, resistance bands, kettlebells, Bosu balls, boxes, agility ladders, cones.

"Fitness isn't sitting on a machine," he says. And for every machine, he explains, there's a real-world equivalent that's a better choice. You could bang out reps on a leg-press machine, or you could do squats, which also engage the core and improve balance. You could do leg extensions and curls on machines, or you could combine the two moves into a lunge and add upper-body work with biceps curls.

"Functional training allows you to smarten up," Ingebretsen says. "Once people get liberated from machines, they don't go back."

That liberation is happening more, according to the American Council on Exercise, which named functional training one of the top trends of 2010. The group specifically called out the rise of the TRX suspension training system, which involves a set of straps with handles that affix to a ceiling. You grasp the handles and use the weight and angle of your body to control the resistance as you push and pull. Results introduced the product to personal training clients years ago and is gearing up to start group classes by summer.

Jeffries is also set to launch a project in February that will take functional training to new heights, literally: to the top floor of a historic mansion in D.C. Dubbed Stroga (a blend of "strength" and "yoga"), the facility will offer yoga classes and functional training sessions. The plan is to have toys galore but no cardio equipment and only a few weight machines.

It's a radical shift considering that one of the hottest trends in the industry just a few years ago was the Curves model, which is based on sending members through a circuit.

But there's plenty of reason to believe that folks are craving a fresh approach. Take, for example, CrossFit. Designed to be the ultimate functional training program, it blends gymnastics, Olympic weightlifting and calisthenics. CrossFit has become hugely popular in the past five years, going from just a handful of affiliates to more than 1,000 worldwide.

In Washington, that boom started four years ago at Balance Gym, which Mark Crick and Graham King founded in the hopes of focusing on machine-free, athletic-style training. They soon opened their doors to CrossFit DC, the area's first CrossFit affiliate.

The model has proved so successful that six months ago, Crick and King took over the three-story Thomas Circle Sports Club in D.C. to see what they could do on a larger scale. The revamped building now includes a 3,000-square-foot studio exclusively for private training and CrossFit and a vast area next to the weight machines for anyone who wants to get functional with their workouts.

But for the first three months they didn't touch a thing. "We needed to build trust to prove we're not just crazy people with sandbags and sledgehammers," Crick says. Change is hard, and they didn't want to alienate the previous members by "taking away their teddy bear," as King explains.

Results will undoubtedly face those transition issues as well after the four gyms get their makeovers. "Functional training is more intimidating. It's less of a comfort zone," Jeffries says. Unlike machines that have a seat to let you know where your rear end goes and only move in one way, your body can do an infinite number of things. The process requires more guidance, which is something Results will offer. "If you build it and then show them how to use it, they will come," Jeffries adds.

His faith in the evolution of fitness comes from 15 years in the industry. When the first Results opened in D.C., there were more StairMasters than treadmills, and yoga was on the schedule once a week. "Times change," Jeffries says. And it's a good thing, too, because if they didn't, we'd all be very bored.

Even these experts are resolved to eat and live more healthfully

By JENNIFER LARUE HUGET
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

When I turned to health and nutrition experts I'd interviewed in the past year for inspiration in formulating my own New Year's resolutions, my cup runneth over.

Linda Bacon, nutrition professor and advocate for the Health at Every Size movement: My resolution is to love eating, even more consistently than I do now. That means putting more effort into being prepared before I get hungry: having delicious food available so I'm less likely to just eat what's around. It also means increased presence: being more attentive and savoring my food, as opposed to eating when I'm distracted or doing other things. It also means cooking and sharing the season's bounty with friends more regularly.

Judith Beck, author of "The Beck Diet Solution: Train Your Brain to Think Like a Thin Person." Among other things, I will continue to eat one junk food every single day but make sure my other food is healthy, save my junk food for an evening snack, and eat everything sitting down so I can enjoy every bite. (Exception: nibble on raw vegetables as I'm making dinner.) I have been doing these things for many years and thus maintain my weight instead of gaining.

Susan Levin, director of nutrition education at the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine: While I'm excellent at keeping a plant-based diet all year round, I can't help but think I should be consuming more dark leafy green vegetables. These plants are full of phytochemicals, vitamins and minerals such as calcium. I am officially committing to eating at least one serving of kale, collards, broccoli, Brussels sprouts or the like every day in 2010.

Dawson MacKay, Bethesda, Md., fifth-grader and member of EmpowerME weight-loss program: My New Year's resolution is to continue to be healthy. I will by eating healthier and exercising more and balancing them both out. The biggest thing I'm going to have to work on is going to be portion sizes.

Vanessa Maltin, food and lifestyle editor for Delight magazine: Store-bought gluten-free baked goods are packed with sugar and calories. My goal for 2010 is to figure out healthier homemade alternatives to my favorite sugary treats to cut down on fat and bulk up on nutrients. With a gluten-free wedding coming up, I've got to fit into the dress of my dreams!

Pamela Peeke, author of "Body for Life for Women": Finish the day's eating no later than 8 p.m. Striving to finish up any eating by 8 really helps in weight reduction and maintenance. Like so many professionals, I'm often challenged by back-to-back work. The time just passes by, and I look up and it's already 8 p.m. and I need to eat dinner. So, I've set my alarm in my crackberry to remind me when I should be getting ready to have dinner. Indeed, I have my own built-in dinner chime!

Chuck Porter, co-author of "The 9-Inch `Diet' ": My worst habit is late-night snacking, if you can call an order of pork fried rice a snack. For the next month, I'm not going to eat anything after 6 p.m. It's simple, you get used to it, and it works. I did the same thing a couple of years ago, and I lost eight pounds in three weeks.

Monica Reinagel, Nutrition Data blogger: True confessions time: I eat too much sugar. I'm physically active, and the rest of my diet is quite healthy, so I get away with it. I'm not overweight, for example, and my blood sugar is fine. But in my heart of hearts I know I'd be better off if I cut back on the sugar in my diet. My resolution is to designate Mondays as sugar-free days — no added sugar whatsoever — and see where it goes from there.

Juliette Tahar, founder and president of Healthy Living Inc.: Spend more time cultivating my "secret gardens": hiking, skating, painting, gardening and meditating. Those are where I recharge, find inspiration and the strength to continue on life's journey. Not related directly to healthy eating, but certainly a part of it. I find that overstress often invites unhealthy relationships with foods: eating too fast, in my case, so finding ways to "decompress" allows me ultimately to slow down at the table.

Brian Wansink, head of the Cornell University Food and Brand Lab and author of "Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think": Here are my two small resolutions for 2010: to be exercising within 10 minutes of waking up each day, and to say grace before each family meal. These might seem small, but small, consistent changes are better than big, inconsistent ones. Doing anything consistently leads to unimagined surprises.

Life & Style

Wyclef Jean defends his Haiti charity

Haiti's Musician Wyclef Jean arrives at the airport in Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, the day after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit his country.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Haitian-born rapper Wyclef Jean spoke out Saturday in defense of his foundation after charity screening groups raised concerns about its accounting practices.

Jean said he was baffled by the timing and nature of criticism of The Wyclef Jean Foundation Inc., which has already raised more than $2 million to help earthquake victims.

"It is impossible for me to even comprehend the recent attacks on my character and the integrity of my foundation," he said in a statement. "The fact that these attacks come as we are mobilized to meet the greatest human tragedy in the history of Haiti only serves to perplex me even further."

Jean, a 37-year-old Grammy-winning artist, has been imploring followers to text "Yele" to 501501 to donate $5 to his foundation in support of Haitian earthquake victims.

The foundation, also known as Yele Haiti, intends to airlift medical supplies, water and Clif Bars to Haiti using a FedEx plane early next week, according to foundation president Hugh Locke.

An Associated Press review of tax returns and independent audits provided by Jean's foundation showed that it was closely intertwined with Jean's businesses.

Jean said he has never profited personally through his work with the organization and he has committed significant amounts of his time and money to the charity.

Sandra Bullock gives $1 million to Haiti relief

AP

Actresses Sandra Bullock accept the best actress award for "The Blind Side" at the 15th Annual Critics Choice Movie Awards on Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sandra Bullock said Friday she donated $1 million toward Haitian earthquake relief, and Madonna announced she gave $250,000 toward the effort as celebrity aid continued to pour into the devestated country.

Bullock's contribution went to Doctors Without Borders' emergency operations in Port-Au-Prince, where three of the organization's existing facilities were damaged by the magnitude 7.0 quake.

"I wanted to ensure that my donation would be used immediately to meet the needs of the Haitian people affected by this catastrophic event," said Bullock in a statement.

Madonna's gift was to Partners In Health, a longtime medical provider in Haiti.

"I urge all of my friends and fans around the world to join me collectively to match my contribution or give in any way you can," she said. "We must act now."

Earlier Friday, Not On Our Watch, an advocacy and grantmaking group founded by George Clooney, Brad Pitt and others, donated $1 million to Partners in Health.

The international Red Cross estimates 45,000 to 50,000 people were killed in the earthquake, which devastated the Caribbean nation on Tuesday.

Haitian relief telethon to grace several networks

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is joining the major broadcast networks and several cable channels for an all-star telethon for Haitian earthquake relief on Jan. 22.

A statement released by MTV Networks on Friday says "Hope for Haiti" will be shown at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Networks showing the telethon are ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CNN, BET, the CW, HBO, MTV, VH1 and CMT. It will also be available internationally.

Haitian-born entertainer Wyclef Jean (ZHAHN') will helm the show from New York, and George Clooney will host the Los Angeles part. CNN's Anderson Cooper will be in Haiti.

MTV says there will be musical performances and celebrity appearances. No other talent was announced.

The show will benefit Jean's Yele (YAY'-lay) Haiti Foundation, as well as UNICEF, Oxfam America, Partners in Health, and the Red Cross.

For $65, tourists get peek at Los Angeles gangland

AP

In this Jan. 10, 2010 photo, former gang member Alfred Lomas talks with reporters during a "LA Gang Tours" tour of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Only miles from the scenic vistas and celebrity mansions that draw sightseers from around the globe—but a world away from the glitz and glamour—a bus tour is rolling through the dark side of the city's gang turf.

Passengers paying $65 a head Saturday signed waivers acknowledging they could be crime victims and put their fate in the hands of tattooed ex-gang members who say they have negotiated a cease-fire among rivals in the most violent gangland in America.

If that sounds daunting, consider the challenge facing organizers of LA Gang Tours: trying to build a thriving venture that provides a glimpse into gang life while also trying to convince people that gang-plagued communities are not as hopeless as movies depict.

"There's a fascination with gangs," said founder Alfred Lomas, a former member of the Florencia 13 gang. "We can either address the issue head-on, create awareness and discuss the positive things that go on in these communities, or we can try to sweep it under the carpet."

Several observers have questioned the premise behind the tours, and some city politicians have been more blunt.

"It's a terrible idea," City Councilman Dennis Zine said. "Is it worth that thrill for 65 bucks? You can go to a (gang) movie for a lot less and not put yourself at risk."

More than 50 people brushed aside safety concerns for Saturday's maiden tour to hear how notorious gangs got started and bear witness to the struggling neighborhoods where tens of thousands of residents have been lured into gang life.

The unmarked chartered coach wound its way through downtown. The first sight was a stretch of concrete riverbed featured in such movies as "Terminator" and "Grease," where countless splotches of gray paint conceal graffiti that is often the mark of street gangs and tagging crews.

After that, it was on to the Central Jail, home to many a thug, past Skid Row's squalor and homeless masses and into South Los Angeles, breeding ground for some of the city's deadliest gangs.

Motoring through an industrial area, the bus enters the Florence-Firestone neighborhood, close to the birthplace of the Crips and current home to Florencia 13, a Latino gang that was accused by federal prosecutors of racist attacks against black residents.

Gray warehouses soon merge with single-story stucco homes as the bus heads south. Few gangsters risk hanging out on street corners, as local rules mean they could get arrested even for congregating, but graffiti on walls, road signs and convenience storefronts betray the presence of Florencia 13 and other gangs.

Sieglinde Lemke, 46, an American Studies professor from the University of Freiburg in Germany, said she enjoyed the opportunity to interact with former gang members.

"It brings to life the class divisions you have in America," she said. "This is an area that's blocked out of my mental map of the States. It's important to get a firsthand account of the area."

Junior high school teacher Prisca Ricks, 37, was of two minds about going on the tour after reading critical blog comments about it being "ghettotainment."

But ultimately, she was pleased she went, and said she appreciated the focus on trying to help the community.

Lomas, 45, a respected activist who has worked with the faith-based Los Angeles Dream Center to distribute hundreds of tons of food to low-income families across the inner city, left gang life about five years ago.

He stresses the aim of his nonprofit company is to bring jobs to communities along the route and to reinvest money through micro-loans and scholarships, though he's not sure how the tour will accomplish that. He also eventually wants to start a gallery and gang museum.

He said the tour will create 10 part-time jobs, mainly for ex-gang members working as guides and talking about their own struggles and efforts to reduce violence. The tour is initially scheduled to run once a month.

No tour quite like this runs elsewhere in the country. Chicago has a prohibition-era gangster tour, and another Los Angeles group buses people to infamous crime scenes, including the Black Dahlia murder.

Lomas faces a quandary as he tries to show the troubled history of the area once known as South Central, before politicians renamed it South Los Angeles in 2003 in an attempt to change its deep association with urban strife.

The tour is billed as "the first in the history of Los Angeles to experience areas that were forbidden." But tour leaders don't want it to be voyeuristic and sensational.

"We ain't going on no tour saying, 'Look at them Crips, look at them Bloods, look at them crack heads,'" said Frederick "Scorpio" Smith, an ex-Crip helping narrate, who helped broker the cease-fire among the Grape Street Crips, 18th Street, F13 and the East Coast Crips.

Ratings rise for O'Brien as nasty NBC exit nears

AP

In this June 1, 2009 file photo provided by NBC, Conan O'Brien makes his debut as the host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" in Universal City, Calif.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Conan O'Brien's ratings are soaring as he nears a bitter exit from NBC's "Tonight" show, his ridicule of his network executives apparently resonating in a country filled with the unemployed.

His ratings Friday were 50 percent higher than they've been this season, and he beat CBS' David Letterman, according to a preliminary Nielsen Co. estimate based on large markets. In the 18-to-49-year-old demographic that NBC relies on to set advertising prices, O'Brien even beat Jay Leno's prime-time show.

Settlement talks continued Saturday on a deal that would let O'Brien leave NBC and restore Leno to the 11:35 p.m. time slot he occupied for 17 years through last spring.

O'Brien's ratings have been rising through the week, which was an extraordinary one in late-night television and saw O'Brien and Letterman hurling barbed remarks at Leno, and Leno firing back.

O'Brien's team sees the ratings as vindication. His manager, Gavin Polone, on Saturday compared it to when Leno, trailing Letterman in the ratings in the mid-1990s, drew attention for the memorable appearance of Hugh Grant after his arrest. Leno passed Letterman in popularity and never looked back.

"People who never watched Conan before are saying, `I'll try it,'" Polone said. "Now they're saying, `this is good, I'll stick with it.'"

It's doubtful they'll get the chance. O'Brien sounded halfway out the door on Friday's show, an exit prompted by his refusal to move his show to 12:05 a.m. at NBC's request. "By the time you see this, I'll be halfway to Rio in an NBC traffic helicopter," he said in his monologue.

He aired a skit where he was assaulted by gunfire after pulling his car into the studio parking lot. He also is showing "greatest hits" of his seven-month tenure.

The audience's energy level noticeably went down when he joked about topics other than himself. "I didn't love it either," he said as one joke fell flat. "At this point, I really don't care."

He laughed maniacally when telling the audience that NBC is expected to lose millions of dollars from its coverage of next month's Winter Olympics.

But he pulled back from jokes about Leno. On Friday, Jeff Gaspin, chairman of NBC Universal Television Entertainment, had said the crossfire between hosts "has definitely crossed the line.

"Jay is the consummate professional and one of the hardest-working people in television," Gaspin said. "It's a shame that he's being pulled into this."

Leno took a retaliatory strike on CBS' Letterman on Friday.

"Even Dave Letterman is taking shots at me, which surprised me. Usually he's just taking shots at the interns," Leno said, a reference to the CBS host's admission last year that he had affairs with women who worked on his show.

Meanwhile, Polone denied a New York Post item Saturday, quoting an anonymous source, that said O'Brien's staff members are "furious" with O'Brien for negotiating an exit payment reportedly approaching $30 million while they are losing their jobs. Polone noted that O'Brien paid staff members himself during the Hollywood writers' strike, and was negotiating severance packages for his employees, many of whom moved from the New York area last year when O'Brien started on "Tonight."

Polone is also angry at NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol, who told The New York Times this week that O'Brien was "an astounding failure" who had stubbornly resisted advice to broaden his show's appeal. O'Brien's people blame the show's ratings problems on the poor ratings of NBC's late local news and Leno's show before that.

Leno averaged 5.2 million viewers per night on his last season at the "Tonight" show, Nielsen said. O'Brien is averaging 2.5 million this season.

Kimmel tweaks Leno, NBC over late-night dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel stepped into NBC's late-night fray on Jay Leno's turf, taking comic aim at him and NBC on "The Jay Leno Show."

Appearing by satellite Thursday for Leno's "Ten at Ten" question-and-answer segment, the ABC late-night host was asked to relate his best prank ever. Kimmel replied that he told a guy five years ago that he'd give him his show, and "then I took it back."

It was a thinly veiled reference to Leno's agreement in 2004 to surrender "The Tonight Show" to O'Brien in 2009, after 17 years as host.

NBC, which is ending Leno's prime-time show, wants to return him to 11:30 p.m. EST by bumping O'Brien and "Tonight" to midnight, a plan O'Brien has rejected. The network was in talks with both hosts.

Kimmel also joked that Leno had "$800 million, for God's sake," and advised him to leave other hosts' shows alone.

Leno might have known what to expect from his guest, who'd already made pointed fun of him on Tuesday's "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Wearing an exaggerated fake chin to play Leno, Kimmel joked that he was taking over all late-night shows, including Kim-

'SNL' lampoons late-night mess with sketch

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" has entered the late-night fray, lampooning the mess involving Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien.

"SNL" opened Saturday's show with a sketch featuring cast member Bill Hader as O'Brien and Darrell Hammond as Leno, brought together on CNN's "Larry King Live." O'Brien was portrayed as somewhat humorless, while Leno needed to be cut off from automatically going into a monologue routine.

Jason Sudeikis also made a cameo as a giggling David Letterman, perpetually throwing pencils at the camera.

"SNL" is close to the late-night shuffle and not just because it shares NBC as a network. "SNL" creator Lorne Michaels was executive producer of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" before O'Brien took over the "Tonight" show. He also produces O'Brien's replacement: "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon."

It was a relatively tame parody in comparison to the snipping that has been going on all week across late-night. Leno has generally been on the defensive, as O'Brien and Letterman have repeatedly satirized him. On Tuesday's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on ABC, Kimmel did his entire show as a scathing impression of Leno.

But on "Weekend Update," Seth Meyers expressed more direct criticism. Defending O'Brien, he joked that the situation proved that one didn't need a subscription to Cinemax to "see someone get screwed on TV."

NBC is seeking to restore Leno to the "Tonight" show time slot at 11:35 p.m. EST, a move that O'Brien has rejected. He and the network are currently negotiating for his expected exit from "Tonight." Settlement talks continued Saturday.

USA network shakes up schedule under new strategy

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Cable television's top-rated network, USA, is shaking things up a bit.

Starting this week, USA will no longer air any of its original dramas on Friday nights but will start putting new shows at 10 p.m. ET on Tuesday and Wednesday, nights that had previously been reserved for reruns of network shows like "NCIS."

The season premiere of "White Collar" on Tuesday starts the new schedule. "Psych" will start on Wednesdays on Jan. 27.

USA will be trading away a signature Friday night where shows like "Monk" thrived for several years, in favor of two nights when more people generally are watching television.

"We decided it was time to take some risks," said Bonnie Hammer, the network's chief executive. "Being complacent was never going to teach us anything."

Hammer said she has a 16-year-old son who has asked her mom why "White Collar" was on Friday nights, saying his friends would otherwise watch the show.

Instead, they're out. Or, like many adults, they're catching up on what was recorded that week on DVR.

Those are some reasons why the bigger broadcast networks have de-emphasized Fridays over the past few years. USA has used that to its advantage by offering some of its most popular programs that night as an alternative.

The struggles of corporate sister NBC with the just-canceled "Jay Leno Show" also convinced USA that more people interested in drama series might be available at 10 p.m. on weeknights, Hammer said. Both companies are owned by NBC Universal.

USA also programs original shows on Sundays, where "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and "In Plain Sight" are most likely to land. The popular WWE professional wrestling airs on Mondays, and the original show "Burn Notice" will stay on Thursdays, with new episodes beginning this week.

The typical strategy for cable networks is to build on successes, not fiddle with them. Walking away from Friday nights could be a risky move for USA, said Marc Berman, a television analyst for Media Week Online.

"You don't want to break up something that works," Berman said. "You want to accentuate what's working."

"White Collar" was also the first new show that USA has begun in the middle of the broadcast TV season. Usually cable networks try for months when broadcasters aren't airing their own originals in order to get more attention.

USA, in other words, is starting to act like a broadcast network.

"We're always nervous that we could lose the crown," Hammer said. "We're always nervous that our operating profit could slide. I think it's the nervousness and the worry that it won't last forever that keeps us working so hard."

Sarah Jessica Parker said to partner with Halston

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker and Halston may be banking on fashion sequels: The storied designer label reportedly has hired the "Sex and the City" star in a creative role.

Halston is tapping Parker for its newly announced Halston Heritage collection, a less expensive extension of its signature collection, according to Women's Wear Daily.

The company wouldn't confirm reports of the partnership, but did say an announcement of some sort was forthcoming within the next week. There was no immediate response to an e-mail to Parker's publicist Friday.

Halston's glitzy image from its heyday of the disco era—with the late Roy Halston Frowick turning out jersey jumpsuits and the like for the Studio 54 crowd—had become tarnished in recent years with a disappointing relaunch in 2008.

Parker, meanwhile, found herself without a home for her own once-popular line Bitten after retail partner Steve & Barry's filed for bankruptcy and closed its doors.

But Parker is still considered one of the most influential celebrities in the fashion world and insiders think she and Halston would make good co-stars.

"If she is to come to Halston, I know that she will do an incredible job and finally get the brand back to being a Halston that is respectful of Mr. Halston and his legacy but also move it forward to what women today want to wear," says stylist and commentator Mary Alice Stephenson.

Parker's style-icon "SATC" character Carrie Bradshaw has already been shown in the trailer for "Sex and the City 2" in a white dress from Halston Heritage, a brand extension with retail prices ranging from $55 to $595.

Marios Schwab remains the designer for the main line, which has a slot on the calendar at New York Fashion Week in February.

Halston couldn't have hired just any boldface name as a partner, says Stephenson, who styled Parker for a memorable Harper's Bazaar cover with the actress—in Chanel—running across the Brooklyn Bridge. "She's probably the only actress who could pull this off."

Lindsay Lohan was tapped as artistic adviser to Emanuel Ungaro with much fanfare last fall; just weeks later her work for the label was trounced by fashion critics.

AP

This photo taken Sept. 8, 2009 shows actress Sarah Jessica Parker on location for "Sex and the City 2" in New York.

Prosecutor balks at sentencing absent Polanski

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor filed legal briefs Friday strongly reiterating his opposition to sentencing movie director Roman Polanski in absentia in a 32-year-old sex case.

Insisting Polanski must appear in person in a Los Angeles courtroom, Deputy District Attorney David Walgren characterized the director as "a fugitive and convicted child rapist (who) must not be permitted to instruct this court how to proceed."

"The operation of a fair and equitable judicial system mandates that criminals, even those with celebrity status and wealthy means abide by lawful court orders," Walgren wrote.

Polanski, 76, is under house arrest in Gstaad, Switzerland and fighting extradition.

He pleaded guilty to having unlawful intercourse with a 13-year-old girl and fled in 1978 when the now deceased judge indicated he was about to issue a harsher sentence than contained in a plea bargain.

AP

This is a Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, of film director Roman Polanski in Montrouge, France.

Polanski recently sent a letter asking a Los Angeles judge to sentence him without making him return to the U.S.

Walgren objected to Polanski's request during a hearing earlier this month. Another hearing is set for Jan. 22.

In his 11-page court filing, Walgren said the "unique high-publicity nature of the case would provide the greatest deterrent effort for others considering fleeing the court's jurisdiction."

The document also quoted from an appellate court decision that noted sentencing in absentia might be a win-win for Polanski.

If sentenced to no further time behind bars, Polanski could freely return to the United States without consequence, the prosecutor said. And if sentenced to state prison, he could remain a fugitive.

"The appellate court accurately characterized this as the 'heads I win, tails you'll never find me' dynamic," Walgren said.

He also said that Polanski's voluntary surrender in person would "maintain the dignity of the court" and prevent him from "flouting the processes of the court." In the sensational 1977 case, the director of "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby" was accused of plying the teen with champagne and part of a Quaalude pill then raping her during a modeling shoot at Jack Nicholson's house in 1977.

'Slumdog' director making film about hiker's story

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The award-winning director of "Slumdog Millionaire" says he plans to make a movie about the mountaineer renowned for amputating his own arm after it was pinned by a half-ton boulder while he was hiking alone in Utah.

Danny Boyle says production on the movie "127 Hours" will take place in Utah over 42 days in March and April. He says some of the filming will be done in Bluejohn Canyon, where Aron Ralston's ordeal took place.

Ralston cut off his right arm with a dull blade in 2003 after he'd be pinned for several days at the bottom of the remote canyon, near Moab. He later wrote a book about the experience, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," which inspired the movie. The Coloradan also gives motivational speeches.

A Utah state panel has approved a tax credit incentive of up to $2.8 million for the filming of his story.

Iglesias quit 'rabbit'-like sex life 15 years ago

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—Julio Iglesias has a reputation as a famous lover, but he told a concert audience he abandoned his prolific sex life 15 years.

During a performance in Punta del Este, Uruguay, he said that when he first performed there at age 24, he was "like a rabbit."

In this Aug. 14, 2008 file photo, Spanish singer Julio Iglesias performs during a concert at Cap Roig festival in Calella de Palafrugell, Spain

AP

The singer added that he had a "superstition, a quirk or whatever, that I couldn't go onstage to sing if I didn't make love first."

But the 66-year-old singer says "I gave that up completely 15 years ago."

Iglesias' comments were reported Friday by Uruguayan newspaper *El Pais*. Iglesias publicist Paula Montoli didn't comment on whether Iglesias was celibate, but told The Associated Press his comments were intended to be lighthearted and "ironic."

Name-change ruse may help co-worker save face

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been working at my current job for a couple of years. One of my co-workers, who is in another department and who I see a couple of times a week, calls me "Sue." My name is "Joyce."

He has been doing this for some time and I don't know how to correct him without embarrassing him. Any suggestions?

POLITE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR POLITE: Try this. Tell him you have changed your name to Joyce—that others are now using it and you'd appreciate it if he would, too. If he asks you the reason for the name change, say it's because all your life you have felt more like a Joyce than a Sue. (It's true.)

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this guy, "Omar," for eight months. He is considerate, compassionate, affectionate, intelligent and worldly. He's a good father and has a great sense of humor. Omar is any woman's dream, but I am not physically attracted to him. There's no chemistry, no electricity—zilch!

I have tried to persevere, hoping my feelings would change. I feel like the woman who says she wants a good guy until she finds one.

I have struggled with why I don't have feelings for Omar. He adores me, but all I feel toward him is friendship. I have tried forcing myself, but at my age I want someone who is sexy, someone I can fall passionately in love with. Omar and I have wonderful times together, but I'm not receptive to his advances.

Should I keep trying, hoping things will change? Is 53 too old to still feel "gaga" over someone?

SEARCHING FOR MORE IN PHILADELPHIA

DEAR SEARCHING: Heck no! And I say that from personal experience.

Now, ask yourself how you would feel if you discovered that Omar wasn't really the person he has presented himself to be. Well, that's how this man will feel if you continue "faking it." Please stop giving him false hope where there isn't any. Level with him. He's the ideal man for someone else, and your Mr. Right may be just around the corner.

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law is 92. He has led an accomplished and rewarding life. He is also a careful man, concerned about posterity and he has written his own eulogy.

When he passes, I plan to offer some warm and loving remarks. Because he has already written his eulogy, would it be in poor taste to send him my remarks now to let him know how I feel about him?

LOVING SON-IN-LAW IN VIRGINIA

DEAR LOVING S-I-L: Not at all. When you do, send him a cover note saying, "I know you have written your eulogy, but I thought you might be interested to read what someone else has to say on the subject when that sad time comes. After all, the time to offer a compliment is when the recipient is around to enjoy it. Love, ..."

P.S. Don't be surprised if he sends it back with some suggested edits.

DEAR READERS: Today marks the birthday of civil rights martyr the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Sadly, he didn't live to see our first African-American president elected—but I'm sure he's smiling—ABBY

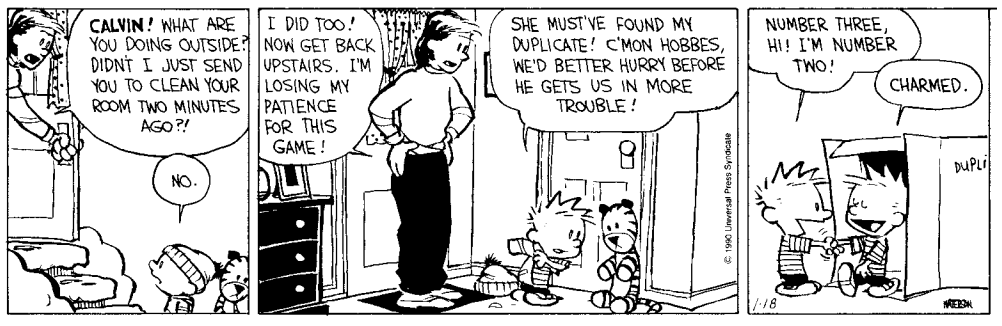
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE? DIDN'T I JUST SEND YOU TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM TWO MINUTES AGO?!
NO.
I DID TOO! NOW GET BACK UPSTAIRS. I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE FOR THIS GAME!
SHE MUST'VE FOUND MY DUPLICATE! C'MON HOBBES, WE'D BETTER HURRY BEFORE HE GETS US IN MORE TROUBLE!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
NUMBER THREE, HI! I'M NUMBER TWO!
CHARMED.
DUPLI
1/18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL, THE POLAR ICE CAPS ARE MELTING
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
SO?
FROM NOW ON, I SET THE THERMOSTAT!
OH, SURE! BLAME ME!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 1-18

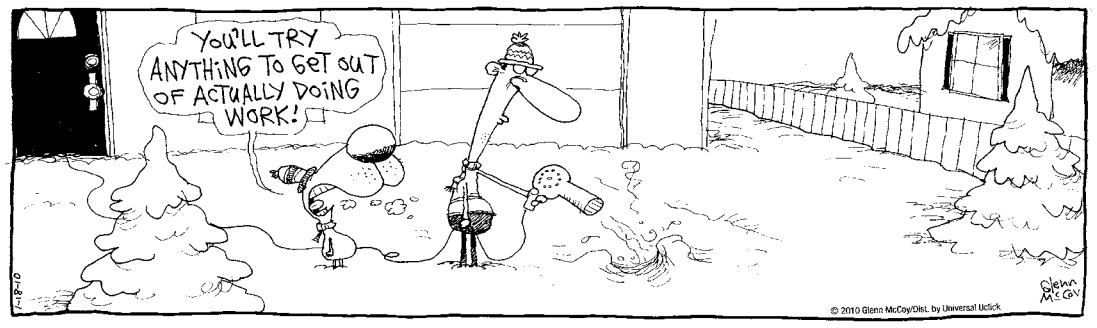
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, I WANT TO BE SUPER RICH WHEN I GET OLDER.
OKAY, BUT MONEY ALONE WON'T MAKE YOU HAPPY.
WHAT WILL?
A LOVING FAMILY AND GOOD, LOYAL FRIENDS.
BUT COULDN'T I JUST BUY THOSE? THEN I COULD TELL THEM WHAT TO DO.
JUST TELLING SOMEONE WHAT TO DO DOESN'T MAKE FOR A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.
www.gocomics.com
ADAM, WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE!?
DESPITE WHAT MOM THINKS,
SHE SAID "PLEASE."
© 2010 Universal Uclick
1/18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

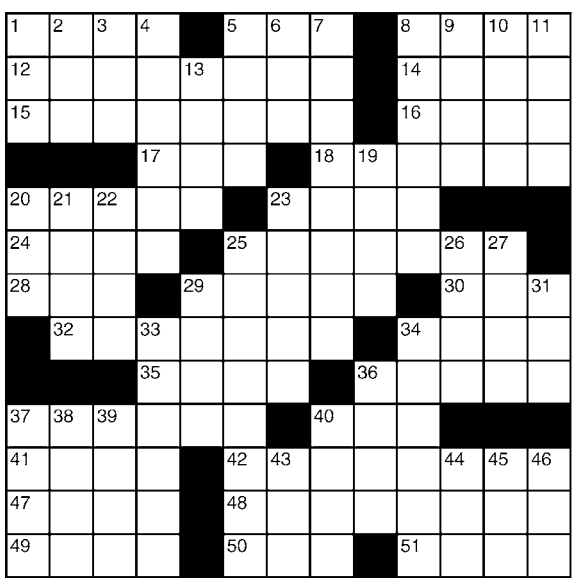
ACROSS
1 "Piggies"
5 Quick swim
8 Conked out
12 Coin-toss outcome, e.g.
14 Gaelic
15 Eliot Ness' foe
16 False idol
17 Spot on a playing card
18 Commemorative tablet
20 Victim of Cortes
23 Twosome
24 Dregs
25 Noted TV weathercaster
28 Greek H
29 Foreigner
30 Meadow
32 Longtime Indy 500 star
34 Thailand, once
35 Suitable
36 Animator Tex
37 Mideast market
40 Consumed
41 Paradise
42 "Swanee" singer
47 Surround
48 Ocean occurrence
49 Old portico
50 Round Table address
51 Duel tool

DOWN
1 Afternoon gathering
2 Lubricate
3 And so on (Abbr.)
4 Figures
5 Let fall
6 Charged particle
7 H&R Block employee
8 Go ashore
9 Baghdad's land
10 Jacob's twin
11 Take out of a text
13 Grand story
19 MGM mascot
20 Hearty brew
21 Catherine — -Jones
22 Blue shade
23 Used diligently
25 Losers
26 Author Wiesel
27 Back
29 Celebes ox
31 Jimmy Carter's daughter
33 Kampala's nation
34 Slender
36 On
37 Pleads
38 Mine entrance
39 Nil
40 Open slightly
43 Floral neckwear
44 Taste the coffee
45 Praise in verse
46 Born

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	H	O	P	■	H	E	R	E	■	F	O	B
M	A	G	I	■	A	T	O	M	■	L	Y	E
U	S	E	R	■	L	U	A	U	■	E	E	N
T	H	E	A	■	V	I	M	■	J	A	Z	Z
■	■	■	T	I	E	■	E	M	O	■	■	■
A	L	I	E	N	S	■	D	O	L	L	A	R
C	E	N	S	E	■	■	C	L	O	S	E	■
T	I	S	H	R	I	■	R	H	Y	T	H	M
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	O	A	R	■	■	■
S	K	I	P	■	L	A	M	■	O	T	I	S
H	E	M	■	S	A	G	A	■	G	O	B	I
A	N	A	■	I	N	O	N	■	E	M	I	R
M	O	M	■	E	D	G	Y	■	R	E	D	S

Saturday's answer 1-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse L. Martin, 41; Jane Horrocks, 46; Mark Messier, 49; Kevin Costner, 55

Happy Birthday: Be strong and go after your goals. You can make a difference if you refuse to back down or give in. This is a year of change and one that should allow you to take part in unusual experiences that alter the way you think and do things in the future. Remember past relationships and apply the lessons learned. numbers are 3, 6, 14, 18, 21, 25, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You don't have to make a decision based on what someone else wants you to do. Look at your financial position before you consider making a move that you may not be able to afford. Set your priorities and stick to them. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will get a lot of satisfaction from helping others and will also find out some valuable information that enables you to make essential personal choices. Caution regarding home and family will be necessary to avoid mishaps or feuds. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't take what's being said to heart. Concentrate on your own well-being and improvements that will raise your confidence and allow you options that may have been closed in the past. Don't let anyone pressure you into overspending. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Like it or not, you are up for change. If you are willing to move forward, you will benefit from the journeys you take and the people you meet along the way. A partnership may pose some problems if you take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Aggressive action may work initially but, in the end, it will backfire, causing you restrictions and added responsibilities. A proposition that has been on the table before can now be taken seriously. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Plan to do things a little differently. A change in a partnership can help you incorporate a broader base for the projects you would like to take on. Talks will bring results if you cut to the bottom line. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't take chances, especially if it will disrupt your home and family life. Let your intuition guide you. Working with, rather than for someone will allow you to offer more input into the process of accomplishing a common goal. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Doors are beginning to open and an opportunity to make a critical move that will benefit you personally and professionally is coming into play. Alter your everyday routine so you can expand and diversify your plans for the future. Progress is doable. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will be fooled by what others say and do if you haven't done your research. An aggressive approach to a contract may be tempting but, in the end, you may take on more than you expected. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do a little soul searching and ask tough questions. An experience you had with someone in the past will enlighten you. Don't hold back or waffle when it's vital to say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be torn between the past, present and future. Don't let what's already happened hold you back. Look forward and make sure that what you do now will enable you to make the most of what you've got to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your emotions will be difficult to control. Change is required but it should be good for everyone you care about, not just you. Love is in the stars and can make you particularly happy if you are willing to share what you have. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, sensitive and proud. You are responsible, willing to take action and always looking out for others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3	9		5		
	3			1			9	
5			6		2			
		2		6		9		3
1	6		8		9		4	7
8		4		3		1		
			5		6			1
	4			7			6	
		6		8	4			

Difficulty Level ★ 1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	3	5	4	9	6	2	1
9	2	4	6	1	8	7	5	3
6	1	5	3	7	2	9	4	8
5	6	7	9	3	1	2	8	4
4	3	1	2	8	6	5	9	7
2	9	8	4	5	7	1	3	6
8	5	9	1	6	4	3	7	2
3	4	6	7	2	5	8	1	9
1	7	2	8	9	3	4	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PIZZA DELIVERY **Solution: 7 letters**

S	B	E	G	N	I	V	R	A	T	S	H	E	T	A
G	K	E	C	A	R	S	U	N	M	I	N	O	D	P
A	C	S	V	I	Y	E	S	C	O	O	P	D	M	P
B	I	I	M	E	V	R	H	N	H	P	R	S	(H)	E
T	U	Z	T	A	R	R	G	P	I	E	U	A	(S)	T
O	Q	E	R	Y	L	A	E	N	S	K	C	O	(A)	I
H	S	C	A	A	M	L	G	S	U	C	P	I	(C)	T
O	P	L	R	F	E	S	E	E	S	H	F	A	R	E
R	E	G	O	T	D	C	O	L	D	A	R	R	N	P
D	E	O	H	H	I	S	A	I	S	N	I	T	S	R
E	D	A	E	O	U	E	N	T	M	G	E	X	E	E
R	Y	A	H	E	M	N	R	A	I	E	S	E	X	V
O	T	C	N	F	E	A	S	T	C	M	N	G	O	I
O	N	O	S	R	E	P	A	I	D	K	E	U	B	R
D	Z	E	S	T	E	E	R	T	S	M	E	L	L	D

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Address, Appetite, Aroma, Beverage, Boxes, Cars, Cash, Change, Choice, City, Cold, Coupon, Crave, Delay, Dinner, Door, Driver, Extra, Fast, Feast, Food, Fries, Heat, Home, Hotbags, Hungry, Large, Meals, Medium, Menu, Napkins, Order, Paid, Person, Price, Quick, Rush, Service, Size, Small, Smell, Snack, Speedy, Starving, Street, Telephone, Time, Tips, Toppings, Zone

Last Saturday's Answer: Menthol

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Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOCELYN P. DOREZA, Petitioner, vs. ALLAN P. DOREZA, Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-09-0517 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 506693 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger of Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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YOUR **1111** LIFE

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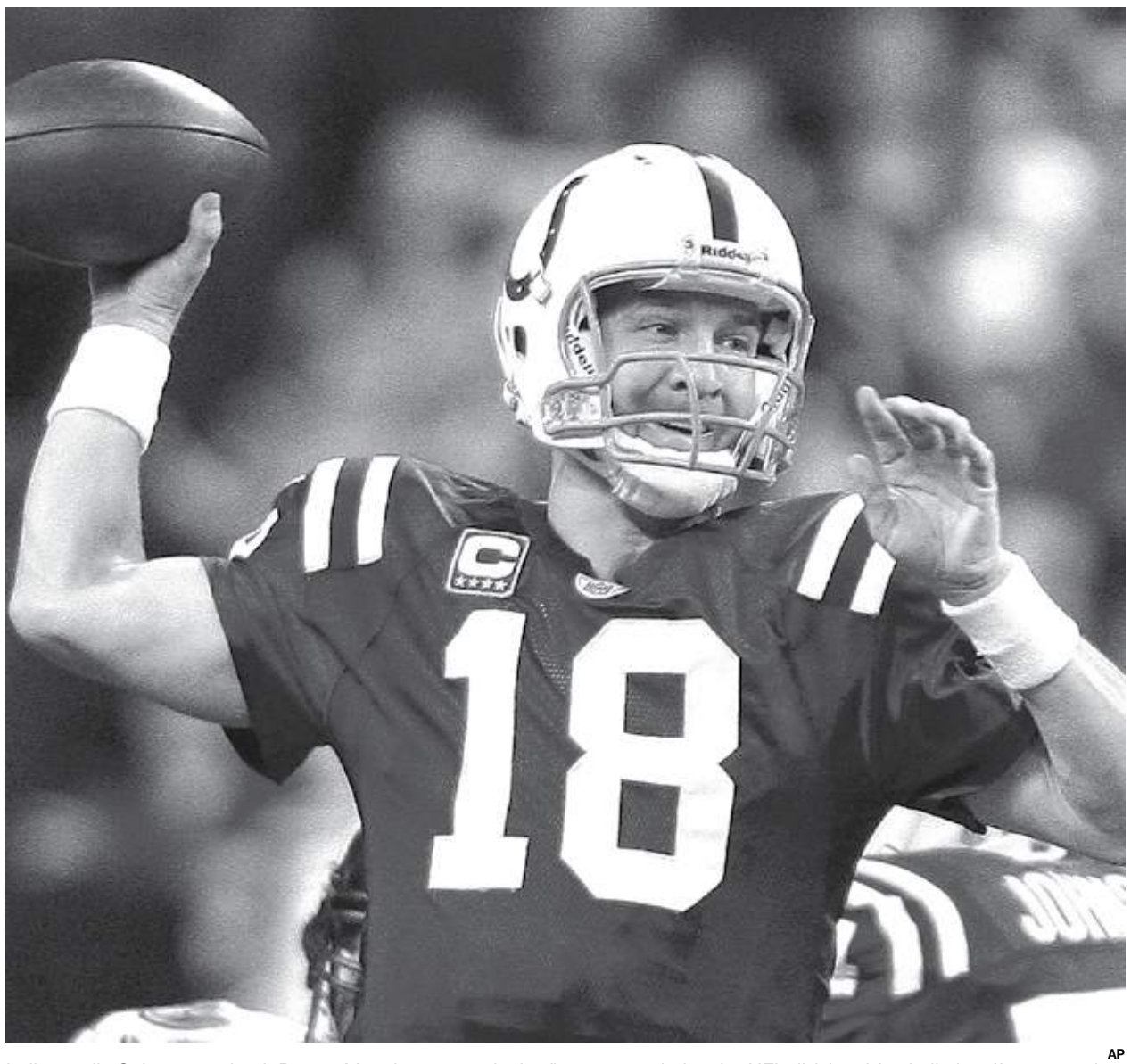
Find today's solution in this section

Colts beat Ravens 20-3, advance to AFC title game



AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning passes in the first quarter during the NFL divisional football playoff game against the Baltimore Ravens, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— There's a price to pay for keeping the ball out of Peyton Manning's hands.

Once he gets it, he doesn't give it back—at least not until he's gotten the Indianapolis Colts plenty of points and a playoff win.

In his first game since winning an unprecedented fourth NFL MVP award, Manning threw for two touchdowns Saturday night in a 20-3 victory over the Baltimore Ravens. The Colts will host the AFC championship next Sunday against San Diego or the New York Jets.

"Whoever it is, we know it's going to be a challenge and we have to step it up another notch," coach Jim Caldwell said.

Manning and the other Colts starters got lots of rest when the rookie coach sat them for long portions of the final two regular-season games, both losses after they had opened 14-0. Then they had a bye, a reward for owning the league's best record.

And when the Ravens (10-8), who routed New England in the wild-card round, marched 87 yards for an early field goal, the All-Pro quarterback's sour face told it all.

By halftime, the scoreboard told it all: Indianapolis 17, Baltimore 3.

"I thought we had good preparation coming into this game," Manning said, "and I thought we came out sharp and kind of set the tempo from the get-go."

It didn't get any tighter, even though Ed Reed got his fourth career interception of Manning in the third quarter. Reed was stripped of the ball by a sprinting Pierre Garcon, the intended receiver, at the end of a 38-yard return. Dallas Clark recovered, and Reed was robbed of another pick five plays later because of a pass interference call on Corey Ivy.

The Ravens' vaunted defense was self-destructing, and Manning gave it another push toward the offseason with a 14-play drive to Matt Stover's 33-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

Directing a patient offense, Manning finished 30 of 44 for 246 yards.

"It's about executing on that day. I don't think it matters if you've had a bye or you're playing home or away," Manning said. "This myth that you can't win after a bye week, I haven't believed in it."

The last time the Colts hosted the conference title game was three years ago, when they won their only Super Bowl representing Indianapolis. That championship victory came in Miami, the same site as next month's Super Bowl.

Indy's 18th-ranked defense gave Manning lots of help, shutting down a running game that romped for 234 yards against the Patriots. Even when Ray Rice, who had 159 yards rushing a week ago, burst through for a 20-yard gain, Raheem Brock forced a fumble and the Colts recovered. It was Indy's third of four takeaways.

"Our defense did a tremendous job," Caldwell said. "Anytime you hold that offense the way they run the ball, and Ray Rice, under 100 yards, our defense did indeed play hard and well, tackled well, and they were opportunistic. It was a heck of a performance."

Baltimore, with rookie Joe Flacco at quarterback, won two road games last January to get to the AFC championship game, where it lost to Pittsburgh. Flacco struggled in this postseason and was intercepted twice Saturday night.

Stover, the career scoring leader for Baltimore who joined Indianapolis in October, also had a 44-yard field goal. Billy Cundiff had a 25-yarder for the Ravens' only points.

The Colts have won eight straight against Baltimore, a city they once called home. The last time they were so stingy in a playoff game was as the Baltimore Colts 39 years ago, a 20-3 win over Cleveland—where the Ravens once lived as the original Browns.

"The better team won today," Rice said. "You shouldn't be afraid to say that."

The Ravens threw a wrinkle at Indianapolis on their first possession, using a no-huddle offense for portions of the 15-play drive that kept Manning on the sideline for nearly 8 minutes. What Baltimore didn't do was finish the drive with a touchdown, and it was fortunate to get Cundiff's field goal after Antoine Bethea dropped an interception at the goal line.

Manning must have been jealous of that series, because he soon led the Colts on an 8-minute, 75-yarder, converting a fourth-and-4 pass to Joseph Addai along the way. His pinpoint throw to Collie in the left corner of the end zone - the kind of pass that has become a Manning trademark - made it 10-3.

Then it was back to the quick pace the Colts are known for. After Baltimore's three-and-out, Manning needed just 1:23 to make it 17-3. The drive was aided by Ray Lewis' personal foul on a helmet-to-helmet hit against Collie in the end zone, and Wayne then leaned in with a 3-yard pass with 3 seconds remaining in the half.

Following its impressive first possession, Baltimore had the ball for less than 4 minutes in the opening half, gaining 9 yards in the second period.

"We didn't play well enough to win this game against this team on this day," coach John Harbaugh said. "They played defense the way they always do, they just played it well."

Saints 45, Cardinals 14

At New Orleans, maybe a little rest was all Drew Brees and Reggie Bush needed to shift the Saints' league-leading offense back into overdrive.

That, and a visit from Arizona's porous defense.

Brees threw three touchdown passes, Bush scored on an 83-yard punt return and a spectacular 46-yard run, and New Orleans overwhelmed the defending NFC champion Cardinals 45-14 in their divisional playoff game Saturday.

"We came off a stretch where we had all the advantages of being rested," New Orleans coach Sean Payton said. "We played with a lot of energy."

One win from their first Super Bowl, the Saints will host an NFC title game for the first time in franchise history next weekend when they play the winner of Sunday's game between Dallas and Minnesota.

"There's been a lot of firsts since Sean Payton has been here in the organization and we want to keep that going," Brees said. "We want to bring this franchise a championship."

Jeremy Shockey caught a touchdown pass in his return from a three-game absence. Devery Henderson and Marques Colston also had touchdown catches, and Lynell Hamilton had a short touchdown run for the Saints.

After its 51-45 overtime win over Green Bay in the wild-card round, Arizona wound up yielding 90 points in the postseason, the most ever allowed in consecutive playoff games in one season.

"It didn't end the way we wanted it to," quarterback Kurt Warner said. "It wasn't nearly as competitive as we wanted it to be, but sometimes you have those days. Today was one of those days for us."

Even the Saints' sometimes soft defense played well, forcing two turnovers, harassing Warner often and knocking Arizona's 38-year-old quarterback out of the game briefly when, during Will Smith's interception return, he was blind-sided by Bobby McCray's block.

Warner was 17 of 26 for 205 yards, but was unable to move Arizona consistently. The Cardinals punted twice and missed a long field goal in the first half before heading into halftime down 35-14. Arizona punted twice more in the third quarter, with Bush scoring on the second to make it 45-14.

Bush finished with 84 yards rushing, 24 yards receiving and 109 yards on three punt returns. Colston caught six passes for 83 yards.

"We had a plan the whole time," said Brees, who passed for 247 yards. "It was hard for anybody to understand that plan if you're not a member of my team, but we trusted in that plan, that process. We executed throughout the week and it showed in the game."

The victory wound up being so easy for New Orleans that Payton began pulling his regulars early in the fourth quarter and going with basic run plays to chew up the clock.

It was more like what Saints fans had gotten used to in the first 12 weeks of the season, when New Orleans was blowing out opponents en route to a 13-0 start.

The Saints then finished the season on a three-game skid, averaging 14.7 points during that stretch. But New Orleans finished as the NFC's top seed anyway, and players said after their bye week that they'd return healthy and in early season form.

Looking to inspire the club, Payton on Friday signed fan favorite Deuce McAllister, who was inactive but led the team out onto the field before the game alongside Bush, who was wielding a black baseball bat.

It didn't appear as though the Saints would be delivering a beating when the game started, though.

Arizona took the opening kickoff, and with the Superdome crowd howling madly to fire up the defense, Tim Hightower burst through a huge hole on the first play from scrimmage, cut back left and stunned the crowd into silence with a 70-yard TD run. It was the fourth rushing touchdown of 66 yards or more given up by New Orleans this season.

But the Saints had 59:41 left to make up for it. They needed one series to tie it, with Hamilton's 1-yard run capping a more methodical 10-play, 72-yard drive.

On Arizona's next possession, Warner hit Jerheme Urban cutting across the middle, but Randall Gay stripped him from behind and the ball bounced right to Darren Sharper, who returned it to the Cardinals 37. That led to Brees' 17-yard scoring strike to Shockey, who hopped as if the right foot injury that kept him out of the last three regular-season games was bothering him.

New Orleans was off to the races, scoring its third TD in 6:46 when Bush ran left, stopped, started again, danced away from two defenders who fell on each other missing him, then rocketed into the open field for his 46-yard TD.

"He's a guy who can change the game," Payton said.

Arizona needed a break to get back in the game and got one when what would have been Sharper's 10th interception this season was wiped out by linebacker Scott Shanle's hand to the face penalty on Warner. The Cardinals cashed in, capping a nine-play, 80-yard drive with Chris "Beanie" Wells' 4-yard TD run to make it 21-14.

The Saints went back up by two TDs when Brees hit Henderson on a flea flicker for a 44-yard score. Although Arizona was without starting defensive backs Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (sprained left knee) and Antrel Rolle (concussion) by then, Henderson got behind starter Bryant McFadden and made a twisting catch as he fell into the end zone.

"We played with a depleted secondary today," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "That hurt us. The Saints exploited those matchups. That was pretty obvious."

Colston's 2-yard touchdown catch made it 35-14 at halftime.

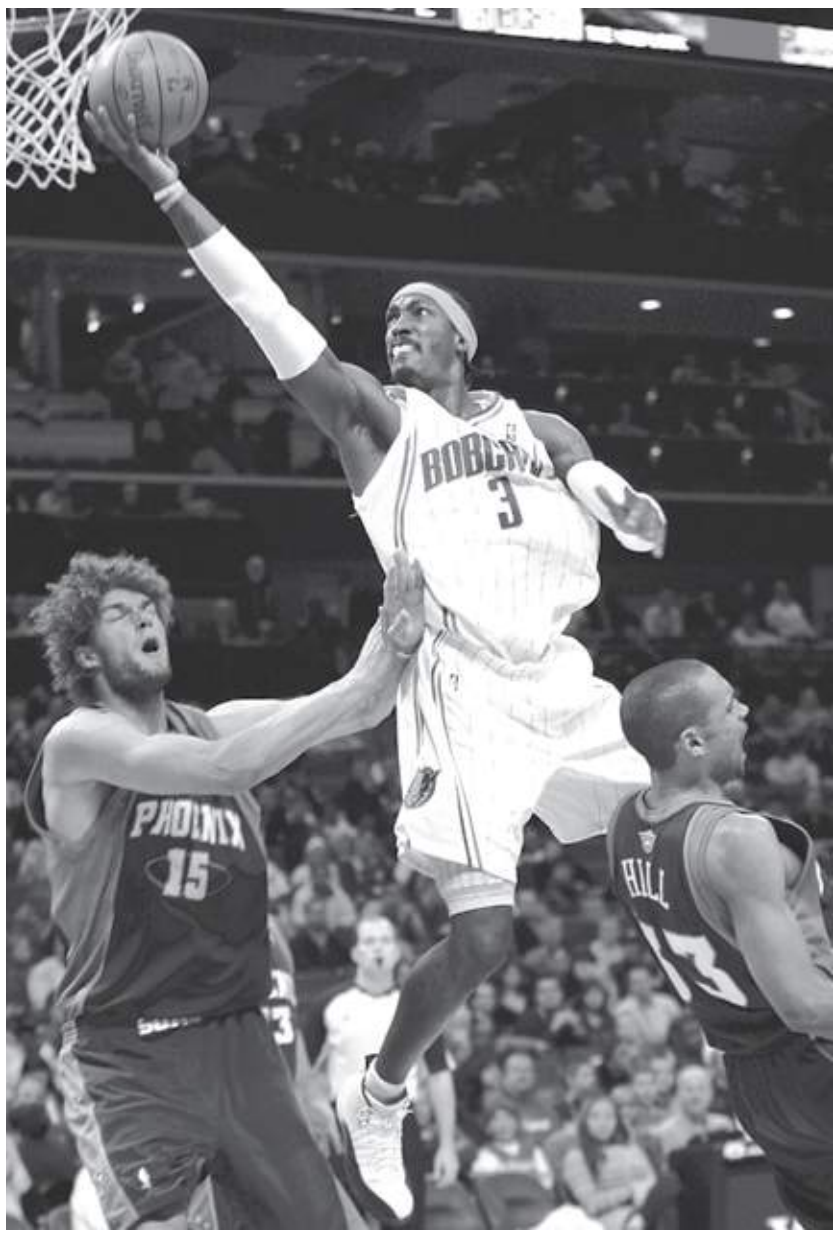
Bobcats surprise Suns for 4th straight win

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Stephen Jackson scored 29 points to surpass 10,000 NBA career points as the Charlotte Bobcats continued one of their best periods in team history with a 125-99 rout of the Phoenix Suns on Saturday.

Gerald Wallace added 29 points and 13 rebounds in the Bobcats' fourth straight win and seventh consecutive at home.

They toyed with the Suns, who trailed by as many as 39 points a night after losing on a buzzer-beater at Atlanta.

Amare Stoudemire also reached 10,000 points, finishing with 19 for Phoenix, which has dropped 10 of its past 11 road games.



AP

Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Wallace (3) drives past Phoenix Suns' Robin Lopez (15) and Grant Hill (33) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010.

Thunder 98, Heat 80

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 36 points on the most efficient shooting night of his career and also pulled down 10 rebounds as Oklahoma City beat road-weary Miami.

Durant went 14 for 18 from the field to finish at 77 percent, as the Thunder got out to a sizzling start and led by double digits throughout the second half.

Michael Beasley matched his career high with 28 points and Dwyane Wade had 24 points and six assists, breaking Tim Hardaway's career record for the most assists in a Miami uniform.

Cavaliers 102, Clippers 101

At Los Angeles, LeBron James scored 13 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland survived a 3-point attempt at the final buzzer by Baron Davis.

Mo Williams added 18 points for the Eastern Conference-leading Cavaliers. Reserve guard Delonte West, who didn't participate in the morning shootaround because of stomach issues, played 29 minutes and finished with 14 points.

Rasual Butler tied a career high with 33 points for the banged-up Clippers and Eric Gordon added a season-high 28. Center Chris Kaman missed his fourth straight game because of a sore lower back, and Al Thornton sat out due to a sprained left ankle.

Hornets 101, Pacers 96

At Indianapolis, David West scored 24 points and Chris Paul just missed a triple-double, leading New Orleans over Indiana.

Paul finished with 22 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and Emeka Okafor had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who won their fourth straight over Indiana.

Roy Hibbert scored a career-high 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Grizzlies 92, Spurs 86

At Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph had 23 points and 15 rebounds as Memphis beat San Antonio for its franchise-record eighth straight home victory.

O.J. Mayo scored 19 points and Marc Gasol had 14 for Memphis, which survived a late rally and won the second game of a back-to-back for the first time this season.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 23 points and eight rebounds. Roger Mason had 17 points and Keith Bogans added 13 for San Antonio, which lost its second straight.

Jazz 112, Bucks 95

At Salt Lake City, C.J. Miles scored 19 points and Deron Williams had 18 as Utah beat Milwaukee for its fourth win in a row.

Williams, who aggravated a wrist injury and missed the dramatic end of Utah's 97-96 victory over Cleveland on Thursday, was a game-time decision but showed little effect as he sparked the Jazz to a quick start and the Jazz never trailed.

Mehmet Okur had 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Carlos Boozer added 13 points and 12 boards as Utah stayed undefeated against Eastern Conference opponents at home (9-0).

Carlos Delfino scored a career-high 28 points to pace weary Milwaukee. Charlie Bell had 14 points for the Bucks.

Wizards 93, Kings 86

At Washington, the home side managed to end one of the most dismal, exhausting weeks in team history with a victory, giving coach Flip Saunders his 600th career win by beating Sacramento.

Caron Butler scored 19 points to lead five players in double figures for the Wizards, who on the previous day had their co-captain Gilbert Arenas plead guilty to a felony gun charge and on the previous evening had lost a double-overtime game at Chicago. Washington had lost four straight.

Kevin Martin scored 23 points for the Kings, who have lost three straight.

Pistons 94, Knicks 90

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 20 points, Charlie Villanueva added 19, and Detroit beat New York for its third straight victory.

The Pistons nearly blew a 21-point, second-half lead before holding on.

David Lee narrowly missed a triple-double for the Knicks, finishing with 26 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists. Danilo Gallinari added 27 points.

Allenby, Palmer tied for lead at Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP)—Robert Allenby and Ryan Palmer avoided bogeys on a windy day at Waialae and made enough birdies to share the lead at the Sony Open and give themselves a small cushion over a crowded leaderboard on Saturday.

Neither of them were spectacular, although they didn't need to be.

With no one making a move, Allenby made three birdies inside 4 feet for a 3-under 67 and his first time atop the leaderboard through three rounds on the U.S. PGA Tour in more than six years.

Palmer, who started with a one-shot lead, two-putted from long range on the last two holes—one for par, the other for birdie—for a 68 to catch the Australian.

They were at 11-under 199, three shots clear of Davis Love III (68), Troy Matteson (68), Steve Stricker (69) and defending champion Zach Johnson (70). Five more players were another shot back, including a pair of 50-year-olds in Tom Lehman and Michael Allen.

All their hopes start with the play of Allenby and Palmer, who have been steady throughout the week.

"If I can go out tomorrow and shoot under par, someone will have to shoot a good round to catch or pass us," Palmer said.

The more surprising of the two is Allenby, even though he ended last year with victories in South Africa and Australia. He severely twisted his ankle on Monday, and even now is walking gingerly on the relatively flat course of Waialae.

Instead of asking out of the pro-am on Wednesday with his tender ankle, Allenby decided to play so he could learn how the ankle would affect his game and get used to hitting bad shots.

He hasn't hit too many of them when it counted.

"Whenever I got into trouble, I seemed to make up-and-down," said Allenby, who has gone 32 holes without a bogey. "I managed my way around the golf course and tried not to make any mistakes. I didn't make any bogeys, which is good."

Into a stiff breeze from just over 150 yards, Allenby hit a 6-iron that settled 4 feet behind the flag for a birdie on No. 2 to erase Palmer's small lead. He also hit a delicate pitch-and-run to 2 feet on the 10th, and a wedge to about the same distance on the 12th.

His best shot might have been a 5-iron around the trees on the 13th, which bounced onto the green for an easy par.

Palmer can relate, as his most memorable shot also led to par.

His wedge got away from him on the 16th hole and landed on the back slope of a bunker, leaving him little room to bring the club down steeply to carry the clip. He thought about a putter to get into the middle of a bunker, a hit-and-hope sand wedge, even a utility club to slam it up the front of the bunker.

Palmer settled on a 7-iron that came out perfectly, caught a good bounce and settled 6-feet away for a remarkable save.

The birdie at the end gave him a share of the lead, which didn't hurt.

"It's a big help having a three-shot lead," Palmer said. "That's still a lot to make up in one round of golf, especially if the wind keeps blowing. I'm very ecstatic with where I'm at. I couldn't be in a better spot."

Stricker missed four birdie putts inside 10 feet, so he was thrilled to see a 12-footer from the fringe fall for birdie on the final hole, leaving him in range.

"Very important," Stricker said. "It's a good start for tomorrow. I'll only be about three shots back, and not a lot of guys in between. So I've got a shot at it."

So does Love, who has made only two bogeys all week at Waialae. He didn't make many birdie putts Saturday, although a few 4-foot par putts saved the day. A victory would be the easiest way for Love to get into the Masters, and get him headed back to where he feels he belongs.

"If I can hole a few more putts, I've got as good of a chance as anyone," Love said.

McGwire set to make St. Louis appearance

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Not long after the St. Louis Cardinals hired Mark McGwire as hitting coach, general manager John Mozeliak began to worry he might have to find a replacement.

Mozeliak said Saturday he began preparing an "exit strategy" while the team waited for McGwire to address the issue of steroids. McGwire was hired in late October but waited about 2 1/2 months before admitting earlier this week that he used performance-enhancing drugs as a player.

Mozeliak said manager Tony La Russa asked the team to just "trust him" on the move, and said the club's top requirement was that McGwire open up about his past, unlike his much-ridiculed Congressional testimony in March 2005.

"I had lots of concerns," Mozeliak said. "I had concerns on what actually would be said and how it would be said. There were times I did think it might not happen."

Mozeliak said the Cardinals didn't know McGwire had used steroids when he was hired, and said they would have hired him anyway.

"I think we've all had our suspicions on what was going on in that time period," Mozeliak said. "As long as he was being honest, we were definitely willing to forgive him.

"He was very much a great part of this organization and a great part of baseball, so we definitely welcome him back."

The former home run king will make his first public appearance in St. Louis since the hire at the team's Winter Warm-Up on Sunday. He'll be on stage at a hotel near Busch Stadium fielding questions from fans and speaking with the media.

Judging from Mozeliak's hour-long session with fans Saturday, McGwire figures to get a warm public reception. No one questioned the hire and the GM spent more time discussing his thoughts about a fifth starter, a contract extension for Albert Pujols and his options at third base.

"A lot of St. Louis sports fans have forgiven players," said Larry Waugh of St. Louis, who wore a Cardinals cap and jersey to the program. "They can forgive Mark McGwire, too."

Teammates were ready to welcome back Big Mac with open arms. St. Louis shortstop Brendan Ryan has been working with McGwire this winter in southern California and thinks he'll be a major plus.

"The stuff that Mac's preaching, I think he's got gold," Ryan said. "I'm really excited to be there at camp every day with him. He says he's going to be there from sunup to sundown and I believe him."

Judging from testimonials by Skip Schumaker and Matt Holliday, also already working with McGwire, reliever Trever Miller had no worries about a potential distraction.

"Skip swears by him, Matt loves him and those are my teammates," Miller said. "There's no doubt he loves the game, and if you love the game I love you."

Pacquiao free from drugs, off to US Sunday

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines— Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao tested negative of illegal drugs according to the Nevada Sports Athletic Commission and will proceed with his flight to Los Angeles Sunday.

That Pacquiao has tested negative for performance-enhancing drugs, including steroids, was relayed to ABS-CBN News by Keith Kizer of the NSAC on Saturday.

American Floyd Mayweather Jr., who was supposed to be Pacquiao's opponent on March 13 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, also tested negative for drugs.

After talks for the Pacquiao-Mayweather duel fell through due to Mayweather's insistence for random drug testing, Pacquiao and promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank picked Ghanaian Joshua Clottey to be his next foe on the same date, but to be held at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, instead.

After Pacquiao's arrival in the United States, the pound-for-pound king will be flown by private jet provided by Arum to Dallas Texas for the kickoff press conference of the Pacquiao-Clottey bout on Tuesday. It will be followed by another press conference at the Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, after which he will be whisked back to the airport and return to Los Angeles.

Pacquiao will open training camp at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood on Thursday, giving him just seven weeks to shape up for the Clottey bout set at 147 pounds.

Accompanying Pacquiao in his trip today are lawyer Jing Gacal, trainer Nonoy Neri and adviser Mike Koncz. Buboy Fernandez, another Pacquiao trainer, is already in Los Angeles, waiting for the arrival of the only boxer to win seven world titles in as many weight divisions.

The 31-year-old Pacquiao trained for eight weeks when he wrested Miguel Cotto's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown via a 12th round stoppage and when he snared Ricky Hatton's International Boxing Organization light welterweight title via a second-round knockout.

Meanwhile, the IBO decided to strip Pacquiao of the 140-title on Friday, noting that the Filipino is already campaigning in the 147-lb division.

After spending two months in Ghana, the 33-year-old Clottey is back in the United States and is already doing light training in the Bronx in New York, where he is now based. ***(PDI)***

THEA

From Page 28

crown via a straight set win yesterday, 6-3, 7-5.

Minor and Shannon were only two of the five Pacific Oceania netters who avoided early elimination in their last tournament in Australia.

Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene and Fiji's Tarani Kamoe were booted out in the second and first round, respectively, while Guam's Katie Lai was also eliminated in the Round of 16.

Minor's semis stint in Wodonga was her best performance in the Australian trip. In the first two tournaments in Shepparton, New South Wales, and Albury, Victoria, Minor dropped her opening games in the main draw. She played in the consolation draw in the 2010 Ducats GV Championships in Shepparton and made it to the finals before losing to Australia's Laura Kelley. In the 2010 Post Margaret Court Cup in Albury, the CNMI bet won her first game in the consolation draw, but lost her second, bowing anew to Kelley.

In Wodonga, Minor was off to a strong start, stunning the fifth-seeded Caitlyn Mitchell in less than one hour (53 minutes), 6-0, 6-0. Minor continued her winning ways with a 6-2, 7-6 triumph over Hene Demiri after 1:48:00. The CNMI netter's quarterfinal win over Sim came after 1:15:00.

In her last tournament, Minor won seven sets and lost two and posted 52 games won against 33 games lost for a decent winning percentage of 61.2 in the singles event. She was also entered in the doubles event, teaming up with New Caledonia's Shirley Pydo, but they lost in the opening round to Australia's Georgia Smith and Elisa Laura Benson, 3-6, 4-6.

From Wodonga, Minor and company headed back to Melbourne yesterday to watch preliminary games in the 2010 Australian Open. The CNMI junior tennis player is expected to return to Saipan on Jan. 21.

BUSY

From Page 28

(Feb. 27) SASC will host the OREXTERRA afternoon race.

After the OREXTERRA, triathletes will only have six days rest before returning to action for the Saipan Marathon set for March 6. The Saipan Marathon is usually scheduled in January, but the event's 2010 edition was moved to March to attract runners also competing in XTERRA and Tagaman.

The 2010 edition of Saipan XTERRA Saipan Championship will hit the road on March 13, while the oldest triathlon event in the region, the Tagaman Triathlon is set for March 20.

United Kingdom's Sam Gardner and Switzerland's Renata Bucher will be returning to defend their title this year. The Brit will also be conducting a training camp on Saipan before the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Tour kicks off. The defending champions will be competing in the Tagaman Triathlon, too.

More pros from around the world are expected to join Bucher and Gardner in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman. The list include inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner Mike Vine of Canada, Germany's Shonny Vanlandingham, and Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara.

Registration for XTERRA and Tagaman are ongoing with the deadline for the March 13 race set for March 10. Tagaman participants have until March 18 to register.

After hosting two big triathlon events on Saipan, the island's bets will be heading to Guam for XTERRA Guam scheduled for March 27.

PROSPECTS

From Page 28

3-pointer in the last 59 seconds of the match, giving his team cushion against the rallying Hoopaholics.

Cadagat's triple capped Prospects' short 8-2 run and gave the team more breathing space, 71-64 lead, after Hoopaholics moved within one.

Hoopaholics cut Prospects' lead to a hair, 62-63, after Mel Manibusan's basket in the paint in the last 2:37 of the match. Manibusan had a chance to put Hoopaholics in the driver's seat for the first time since the first quarter, but overshot a reverse layup.

With his team in danger, Derrick Aughenbaugh stepped up for Prospects in the absence of hotshot Ryan Sanciangco. Aughenbaugh completed a three-point play and split his free throws in the ensuing Prospects' offensive sets before Cadagat canned a triple from the right key in front of their bench to widen the gap.

Despite trailing by seven with less than a minute left in the game, Hoopaholics refused to throw the towel. A Sablan split moved Hoopaholics within six and they inched in closer, 67-71, after Peter Mendiola made a layup off a steal in Prospects' inbound play.

Hoopaholics then intentionally fouled Errol Peredo to stop the clock. The gamble paid off, as Peredo drilled only one free throw, upping Prospects' lead to only five points, with 25 seconds remaining in the match.

Sablan's two free throws off Cadagat's foul made it a three-point game, 72-69, and Hoopaholics gave up another foul to buy time. With 12 seconds left on the clock, Alex Lauron lined up at the free throw area, but muffed his pair of charities. There was a battle for the long rebound with the ball landing on Sablan's hands and he then dribbled from the left sideline towards their frontcourt. Sablan stopped, puffed for a shot against two defenders, and had a good line from way beyond the 3-point territory, but his attempt was a bit short, ending Hoopaholics campaign in the eight-team league.

Meanwhile, the second playoff game between Diamond Fixers and Noni Saipan was rained out with the latter ahead by seven, 30-23, with less than seven minutes left in the second quarter.

The playoff match was set to resume last night. The first playoff game of the night was also halted by light showers a couple of times, delaying the kick-off of the second match. The Prospects-Hoopaholics tiff ended past 9pm. Noni and Diamond was supposed to begin their playoff duel at 8pm.

The winner of the Noni-Diamond game is scheduled to face Ol'Aces in the second semis match tonight. Advance and Prospects are set to square off for the first finals seat in the opening game tonight at 6:30pm.

Prospects 72 – Cadagat 31, Aughenbaugh 17, Peredo 9, Paul 6, Inos 5, Johnson 2.

Hoopaholics 69 – J. Sablan 15, Mendiola 13, Jo. Villacrusis 12, Manibusan 12, Ruluked 6, Ja. Villacrusis 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-22, 36-33, 52-48, 72-69.

SWEEP

From Page 28

capped their domination of the season with a title-win in the Bud Cup, which was played at the completion of the regular season.

As expected, the MVP award in the masters division went to a Black Stallions member, Jun Olita, who also took the high-in trophy, while teammate Avel Villafuerte prevailed in the high-out category.

Joining Olita in the champion team are Noel Montalbo, Warlee Ellama, Jun Visaya, Joy Silva, Nestor Abing, and Robert Valdez.

Duplicating Black Stallions' feat was Brothers B, which topped the Thursday B division of the summer/fall league and Bud Cup. Brothers B posted a 189-81 slate in the Thursday B division, besting nine other teams.

Brothers B is composed of MVP Noel Unay, Willy Apresto, Arthur Miranda, Joel Linaogo, Jojo Guilas, George Medina, Edgar Abalos, and Rex Vea.

The Top 3 placers in each division in the summer/fall season received trophies at the awards ceremony at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club, while only the first finisher in the Bud Cup went home with trophies.

In the A division, the Top 3 placers were Jonny's Black Stallions Jr., Naked Fish Boyz and Jonny's Load Up; Tuesday B had D'Pirates CK-Destroyers, D'Pirates B-Destroyers, and VFW Naughty Boyz; Thursday B had Brothers B, Bring It On, and Remington's Naughty Boyz;

C Chichirika had Bwibwiis C, Snicker's Lucky Shot, and Bwibwiis C Barracuda; C Kingfisher had Jonny's Wasabe, USSP Young Guns, and Bar Gaia Gaiana; Ladies division had VFW Yakau, Tijuan B-52 Shooters, and Jonny's.com; and masters division had Black Stallions, D-Pirates M-Destroyers, and Oleai Snipers.

Joining the Black Stallions and Brothers B in the Bud Cup champions circle were Jonny's Load Up (A division); Bring It On 1 (Tuesday B); Snickers Mama Snipers (ladies); VFW One Shot (kingfisher); and C Bwibwiis Barracuda (chichirika).

Most valuable players in each division were given plaques. They were Romano Quindazo (A division), Jeff Barit (Tuesday B), David Nekaifes (chichirika), Wilson Quiban (kingfisher), and Frances Magofna (ladies).

Meanwhile, MARPAC's Jojo Camacho reaffirmed the company's support to SEDA's tournaments.

"We're here to stay longer and support our dart players," Camacho said in his brief remarks at the awards ceremony hosted by SEDA league secretary Rey Pinangay.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	11	.711	—
Toronto	20	20	.500	8
New York	16	24	.400	12
Philadelphia	13	26	.333	14 1/2
New Jersey	3	36	.077	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	26	13	.667	—
Orlando	26	14	.650	1/2
Miami	20	19	.513	6
Charlotte	19	19	.500	6 1/2
Washington	13	26	.333	13

Central Division

Cleveland	31	11	.738	—
Chicago	18	20	.474	11
Milwaukee	16	22	.421	13
Detroit	14	25	.359	15 1/2
Indiana	14	26	.350	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	26	13	.667	—
San Antonio	24	15	.615	2
Houston	22	18	.550	4 1/2
Memphis	21	18	.538	5
New Orleans	21	18	.538	5

Northwest Division

Denver	25	14	.641	—
Portland	25	16	.610	1
Utah	23	17	.575	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	22	18	.550	3 1/2
Minnesota	8	33	.195	18

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	31	9	.775	—
Phoenix	24	17	.585	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	17	22	.436	13 1/2
Sacramento	15	24	.385	15 1/2
Golden State	11	27	.289	19

Yesterday's Games

New Orleans 101, Indiana 96
Charlotte 125, Phoenix 99
Washington 96, Sacramento 86
Detroit 94, New York 90
Memphis 92, San Antonio 86
Oklahoma City 98, Miami 80
Utah 112, Milwaukee 95
Cleveland 102, L.A. Clippers 101

SONY OPEN SCORES

HONOLULU (AP) — Scores Saturday from the Sony Open, a $5.5 million US PGA Tour event at 7,044-yard, par-70 Waialae Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Ryan Palmer	65-66-68—199
Robert Allenby	65-67-67—199
Troy Matteson	67-67-68—202
Davis Love III	65-69-68—202
Steve Stricker	66-67-69—202
Zach Johnson	65-67-70—202
Nathan Green	71-67-65—203
Carl Pettersson	66-70-67—203
Rory Sabbatini	68-68-67—203
Michael Allen	67-68-68—203
Tom Lehman	66-69-68—203
Briny Baird	69-71-64—204
Chad Collins	69-68-67—204
Graham DeLaet	69-67-68—204
Paul Goydos	72-63-69—204
Charles Howell III	73-66-66—205
WC Liang	68-68-69—205
Pat Perez	66-70-69—205
Jeff Quinney	66-67-72—205
Shane Bertsch	66-68-71—205
John Merrick	65-68-72—205
Chad Campbell	68-64-73—205
John Rollins	70-69-67—206
Dustin Johnson	70-69-67—206
Ernie Els	69-70-67—206
Jeff Klauk	70-68-68—206
Omar Uresti	70-68-68—206
Tim Clark	71-67-68—206
Troy Merritt	65-71-70—206
Ricky Barnes	67-69-70—206
Retief Goosen	69-67-70—206
Mark Wilson	68-67-71—206
Nick O'Hern	71-69-67—207
Joe Ogilvie	69-71-67—207
Boo Weekley	71-68-68—207
Henrik Bjornstad	71-68-68—207
Bob Estes	68-70-69—207
Dean Wilson	71-67-69—207
Brian Gay	68-69-70—207
Blake Adams	69-67-71—207
Stephen Ames	68-67-72—207
Roger Tambellini	66-69-72—207
Angel Cabrera	66-68-73—207
Richard S. Johnson	71-70-67—208
K.J. Choi	71-70-67—208
Spencer Levin	69-71-68—208
Bubba Watson	69-70-69—208
Y.E. Yang	70-69-69—208
Mark Calcavecchia	71-68-69—208
Marc Leishman	69-69-70—208
Justin Rose	72-65-71—208
Kevin Na	73-68-68—209
Vijay Singh	69-72-68—209
Martin Flores	66-74-69—209
Ryuichi Oda	68-72-69—209
Jason Day	73-67-69—209
Woody Austin	70-69-70—209
Tom Gillis	71-68-70—209
Brian Stuard	66-73-70—209
Kevin Johnson	68-71-70—209
Brian Davis	70-69-70—209
David Toms	70-69-70—209
Corey Pavin	71-67-71—209
Chris Tidland	69-68-72—209
Jim Carter	71-70-69—210
Jason Dufner	69-72-69—210
Rich Barcelo	70-71-69—210
David Lutterus	73-67-70—210
Stewart Cink	68-72-70—210
Ryuji Imada	68-72-70—210
Jeff Maggert	73-66-71—210
Alex Prugh	74-67-70—211
Aaron Goldberg	70-71-70—211
Jonathan Byrd	75-64-72—211
Sean O'Hair	68-69-74—211
Jerod Turner	71-69-72—212
Fredrik Jacobson	70-71-72—213
Ben Curtis	70-69-74—213
Webb Simpson	71-68-74—213
Kevin Hayashi	74-67-75—216

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Better late than never

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For athletes and teams that failed to close out the 2009 season with championship-clinching wins, it's better late than never.

The title games in the 2009 NMIFA U18 Football Fall League were played two weeks after the new year and had Matansa Football Club and Independents Football Club ruling the girls and boys divisions, respectively.

The Lindsay Davis-coached Matansa Football Club dethroned spring league champion Paire Football Club, 1-0, in the girls' 18-and-under finals. A free kick from Michiko Tenorio in the 16th minute of the first half lifted Matansa to a title win.

Matansa' title-clinching win ended the team's perfect run in fall season. It swept the two-round regular season and beat MP United in the first round of the playoffs, 4-0, to advance to the finals.

In the boys' 18-and-under finals, Independents leaned on an own goal in the second half to pull off an upset over regular season leader MP United, 1-0. IFC and MP United were jockeying for position inside the penalty box when an MP United player accidentally hit the ball, which then found the back of the net.

Independents and Matansa were awarded with perpetual trophies for ruling the fall season. The league also honored Golden Boot winners David Xiang of MP United and Matansa's Doreen Ravell.

Saipan Bowling Association also held its season-ending tournament, two weeks after the 2009 season ended.

However, the delay did not prevent youth bowler Raphael Zapanta from making a mark in the past season. Zapanta, who topped 11 of the 12 monthly roll-offs, capped his 2009 domination with a victory in the season-ending Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes at the Capital Bowling Center.

Zapanta triumphed in the finale for the 2009 season after downing 2008 champion Leeanne Yarobwemal in the two-game finals, 336-309.

Ron Cal, who was the No. 1 qualifier in the season-ending Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Tournament based on the SBA's bowlers ranking system, also secured her looming 2009 tiara.

Cal, who won three monthly titles in 2009, topped the eight-game roll-off for the Queen of the Lanes then nipped Diane Chong, 168-164, for the yearly women's crown.

Still in bowling, the 25th Philippine Bowling Association-Capital Bowling Center's Friday Night League concluded its 2009 season last month, but champion GGRRRRT received its championship trophy only last week.

Other sports actions last week were called off due to rain.

In the PILCOWA caging, no games were played for a week and four teams in the open division just decided to cancel their remaining matches, which will no longer affect the team standings.

In the UBA caging, the last two games in the regular season last Monday was called off due to rain and was played last Wednesday. In the first round of the playoffs, only the tiff between Prospects and Hoopaholics was completed, while the Noni Saipan-Diamond duel was halted in the second quarter.

Still in basketball, the MISO caging was played at the covered Marianas High School Gymnasium, thus all three matches set in the opening week of the high school/junior high school league were completed.

In the Chamolinian softball league in the open Capital Hill Ballfield, only one game was played on Monday and two of four on Friday.

Weather was cooperative during the 2010 MTEC Tank 2 Tank Aquathon, which returned after three years and drew more than 72 participants.

The swim and run event attracted veteran runners and swimmers from Tsunami Saipan.

Thea Minor, who also swims for Tsunami Saipan, missed the aquathon as she was in Australia for three tennis tournaments. She completed her Land Down Under trip with a semis entry in a tournament in Wodonga, Victoria.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Southern's Melvin Cadiang fakes off the defense of Kagman's Ichitaro Faisao during their game in the MISO caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of GGRRRRT pose with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 25th Philippine Bowling Association-Capital Bowling Center's Friday Night League last week at the Capital Bowling Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cathy Anderson takes the photos of swimmers in the open division race of the 2010 MTEC Tank 2 Tank Aquathon in the waters off the former's AJ's Restaurant in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Prospects' Derrick Aughenbaugh pulls up for a shot against Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan during their playoff game in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court last Friday.

MARK RABAGO
Raphael Zapanta, left, and Ron Cal flash the No. 1 sign after winning the 2009 Budweiser Queen of the Lanes and 2009 Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, respectively, at the Capital Bowling Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa and Paire players in action during the girls U18 finals of the NMIFA fall league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor completed her trip to Australia last week.

Colts beat Ravens 20-3, advance to AFC title game

Once he gets it, he doesn't give it back—at least not until he's gotten the Indianapolis Colts plenty of points and a playoff win.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Better late than never

The title games in the 2009 NMIFA U18 Football Fall League were played two weeks after the new year and had Matansa Football Club and Independents Football Club ruling the girls and boys divisions, respectively.

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Thea enters semis in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School student Thea Minor left a mark in the 2010 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships after making a Final Four appearance in her last tournament in Australia.

Minor advanced to the semifinals of the girls U14 singles division after beating Georgia Louise Sim, 6-4, 6-2, on Friday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria.

Minor's victory in the quarterfinals gave way to an all-Pacific Oceania semifinals duel between her and teammate Annie Shannon of Fiji. The CNMI bet faced Shannon on Saturday and played in her longest game in the three tournaments she joined in the Land Down Under.

The 14-year-old Minor gallantly fought Shannon in a grueling two-hour, 51-minute semis match before bowing in three sets. Shannon drew first blood with a hard-earned 7-5 win, but failed to sweep the game when Minor came back with an equally tough 7-6 triumph in the second set. Playing for more than two hours in an extremely hot weather (96.8 degree Fahrenheit) in the afternoon, an exhausted Minor dropped the deciding third set, 3-6.

Shannon went on to move into the finals against tournament second seed Taylor Capannolo and clinched the

See THEA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor completed her Australian trip with a semis stint in the 2010 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria.

Busy first quarter for triathletes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's triathletes will have their hands full in the first quarter of the year as Saipan Adventure Sports Club (also known as Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation) has lined up several exciting events for three months.

As a starter, SASC will have its members joining the Marianas Visitors Authority-organized Coffee Trail Run this Saturday. The 10-mile course starts at American Memorial Park and takes runners to some of the oldest wild coffee trees that are still growing on the slopes of Mt. Tapochao, before heading back to AMP's Micro Beach.

Action will shift to the northern most portion of the island with the staging of the inaugural Northern Passage, a mountain bike race. The Feb. 6 event will start and end at the upper terrace parking lot of the Palms Resort Saipan and will have three courses, namely full, sports, and rookie.

Three more events are scheduled for next month to prepare triathletes for three big tournaments on Saipan in March. On Feb. 13, SASC will be holding an Enticer triathlon/Olympic distance event, while the club will have a mountain bike clinic on Feb. 20. In the last Saturday of February

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Canadian pro Mike Vine is seen here in the bike portion of XTERRA Saipan, which is among the events lined up in Saipan Adventure Sports Club's calendar.

Prospects survives Hoopaholics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Prospects hurdled the first obstacle on its way to the finals of the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League after surviving Hoopaholics, 72-69, at the start of the playoffs on Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Next for Prospects is the semifinal round where it will face a bigger stumbling block in pennant champion Advance. Hoopaholics are done in the single elimination playoffs, joining Cholos and Trinity Estate to the showers.

Winner of the first playoff game of the night was undecided until Hoopaholics gunner John Sablan pulled up for a shot from way downtown and missed at the buzzer.

Bonbon Cadagat led Prospects' win, nailing 31 points, including a

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Hoopaholics' John Sablan, left, and Prospects' Alex Lauron chase the loose ball during their playoff game in the UBA caging on Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sweep for Brothers B, Black Stallions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jonny's Black Stallions and Brothers B hoisted two championship trophies during yesterday's awards banquet for the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after ruling both the summer/fall season and the year-ending Bud Cup.

The Black Stallions reigned supreme in the masters division, ending the summer/fall season with a 164-91 record, five wins ahead of runner-up D'Pirates M-Destroyers. The Black Stallions

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jonny's Black Stallions pose with their Bud Cup championship trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association yesterday at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.